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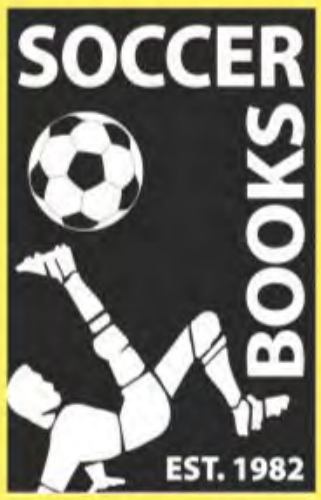

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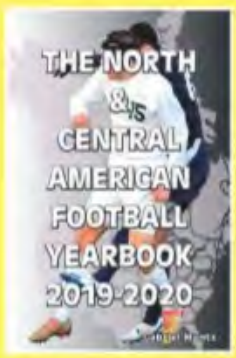

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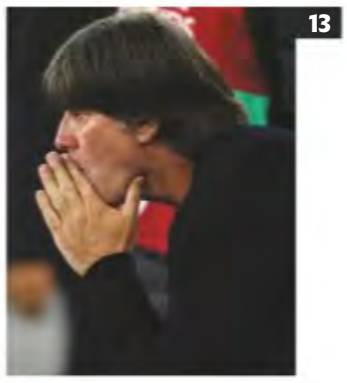

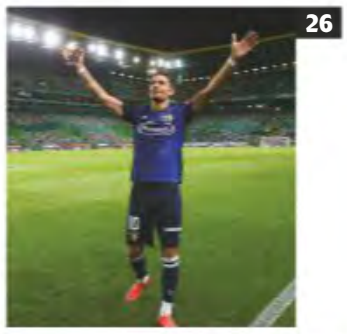

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FROM THE EDITOR

The Euro 2020 qualifying campaign takes centre stage this month, as the final, crucial matches loom into view. The size of the finals tournament means there are unlikely to be many big-name casualties in the preliminaries – in contrast to the 2018 World Cup – but the return of Italy and Holland as serious contenders offers an opportunity to take an in-depth look at each group and the most exciting players that have emerged over the past year (page 27).

Our cover star Eden Hazard (page 52) is one of a number of potential stars of next summer's tournament. Certainly, the Belgium side which he leads and who look certain to qualify, will be among the favourites irrespective of what happens in the remaining qualifying matches.

> Next summer's "pan-European" finals will be unlike any previous tournament

Unfortunately, next summer's "pan-European" finals will be unlike any previous tournament. It will lack the inclusive identity of past finals, with fans forced to travel huge distances across the continent, at great financial and environmental cost. But there will still be plenty of emerging players, teams and stories for us to cover over the coming months. Watch this space.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor

10 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THIS MONTH

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IRAN

Infantino calls for end to female ban

FIFA president Gianni Infantino has called on Iran to allow female fans to attend the country's first home game of the 2022 World Cup qualifying competition, against Cambodia on October 10

"We need to have women attending," says Infantino. "We have been assured that as of the next international game of Iran...women will be allowed to enter football stadiums. This is something very important – in 40 years this has not happened, with a couple of exceptions."

Infantino's comments followed the death of Sahar Khodayari, who was arrested for trying to go to a match disguised as a man. Khodayari, also known as the "blue girl" after the colours of her favourite team Esteghlal, set herself on fire outside the court and died a week later.

Plea...Gianni Infantino

"If that takes place, we won't be sending any more players to the national team"

Bayern Munich president Uli Hoeness threatens drastic action if Germany replace keeper Manuel Neuer with Marc-Andre Ter Stegen

Protest...fans make their feelings known

SLOVENIA

UEFA confirm third competition

European football's governing body says its new club competition will be called the Europa Conference League and will start in 2021.

The 32-team competition will feature cup winners and league runners-up from Europe's lowest-ranked countries, as well as the third, fourth, fifth and sixth-placed finishers from higher ranked countries.

Teams that finish in third in the Europa League group stage will enter the new competition at the knockout stage. As a result, the Europa League group stage will be reduced to 32 teams.

UEFA's executive committee, meeting in Ljubljana in Slovenia, also announced that the top three tiers of the Nations League will be expanded to four-team groups. Leagues A, B and C will each contain 16 teams, while League D will feature seven teams.

As a result, Germany, Croatia, Iceland and Poland, who finished bottom of their respective League A groups last year, will no longer be relegated to the second tier.

It was also confirmed that the Final of the 2021 Champions League will be held in Saint Petersburg, with the 2022 and 2023 Finals in Munich and Wembley respectively.

The 2021 Europa League Final will be held at Sevilla's Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan stadium.

HEROES & VILLAINS

Joy...Liechtenstein get a goal and grab a point

DENNIS SALANOVIC

After Liechtenstein had conceded 46 goals without scoring in their previous 19 qualifiers for either the World Cup or the Euros, the 23-year-old netted a late equaliser to give his country an unlikely 1-1 draw away to Greece.

ANGEL DI MARIA

Scored twice against his old club as Paris Saint-Germain beat Real Madrid for the first time in 25 years, to secure a 3-0 home win in the Champions League.

Historic...Reza Ghoochannejhad

REZA GHOOCHANNEJHAD

Became the first player in Eredivisie history to score four goals as a substitute. The Iranian came on in the 56th minute with his club PEC Zwolle trailing RKC Waalwijk 2-1 and helped them to a 6-2 victory.

SERGIO RAMOS

With Spain comfortably ahead in an eventual 4-0 victory over Faroe Islands, their captain – who was winning his 167th cap – asked to be substituted in order to let Unai Nunez make his international debut.

No luck...Sebastian Coates has struggled of late

SEBASTIAN COATES

The Sporting defender conceded three penalties and was also sent off in the Lisbon club's 3-2 defeat to Rio Ave. Two Portuguese Primeira Liga games later he scored an own goal that handed victory to the surprise league leaders, Famalicao, in a top-of-the-table clash.

ARDA TURAN

Barcelona's midfielder, who is currently on loan at Turkish club Istanbul Basaksehir, was given a suspended sentence of two years and eight months for firing a gun to cause fear and panic, for the illegal possession of weapons and of intentional injury. The 32-year-old was involved in a fight in an Istanbul nightclub last year that left singer Berkay Sahin with a broken nose. Turan later arrived at hospital with a gun which he fired at the ground.

Gun...Arda Turan

JUAN ANGEL NAPOUT

The 61-year-old Paraguayan, who is a former CONMEBOL president, was sentenced to nine years in jail for corruption and banned for life by FIFA.

CHRISTOPH METZELDER

The former German international defender was investigated by police over allegations of distributing child pornography. Capped 47 times by his country and a league champion in both Germany and Spain – with Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid respectively – the 38-year-old is accused by the Hamburg attorney general's office of sending the images to a recipient in Hamburg via WhatsApp.

"You have to live with regrets in life. We were in discussions with Messi when we bought Fabregas because he was his friend"

Arsene Wenger reveals Arsenal came close to signing a teenage Lionel Messi

Erling HALAND

Few teenagers have had more impressive Champions League debuts than the Norwegian striker, whose three goals for Red Bull Salzburg in their 6-2 thrashing of Genk set a host of new records.

The 19-year-old became the youngest player in European club competition history to score a first-half hat-trick. He also became the first teen to score more than once on his Champions League debut since Manchester United's Wayne Rooney, against Fenerbahce, in 2004.

Before his Champions League debut, Haland had notched 11 league goals in seven games for defending Austrian champions Salzburg – to follow the nine he scored for Norway against Honduras at this summer's Under-20 World Cup.

Born in England when his father, Norway midfielder Alf-Inge, was playing for Leeds United, Erling junior has expressed a desire to play for the Yorkshire club. Signed by Salzburg from Molde in January 2019 in what increasingly looks like a sharp piece of business, he will surely be moving on to a major western European club sooner rather than later.

MISLAV ORSIC
(Dinamo Zagreb)
A few days after making his debut for Croatia, he scored a hat-trick in the Champions League against Atalanta.

MARTIN ODEGAARD
(Real Sociedad)
Scored twice and won three man-of-the-match awards in his first four Liga games.

SERGINO DEST
(Ajax)
The Dutch-born USA international made a composed Champions League group-stage debut against Lille.

LAUTARO MARTINEZ
(Internazionale)
The striker grabbed a first-half hat-trick for a Messi-less Argentina in a 4-0 friendly win over Mexico in San Antonio.

MOHAMMED MOHSE
(Yemen)
Scored a stunning overhead kick against Saudi Arabia in a World Cup qualifier.

DIEGO BENEDETTO
(Marseille)
The former Boca Juniors striker scored twice as his new club came from 2-0 down to beat Monaco 4-3.

Jim HOLDEN

AT THE HEART OF THE GAME

Low's time has been and gone

Arsene Wenger learned the hard way that even the most admired and respected manager can stay in a job too long. In fact, the more admiration and respect they earn, the more likely they are to stay when they should depart with honour.

For Wenger and his suffering final years at Arsenal, now read Joachim Low fighting against the tide as national coach of Germany.

Low's 13th year in charge is proving more than just unlucky; it appears to be a monumental mistake when he could have left for an invigorating new challenge as the main man at Real Madrid.

Few in history can match an international record that has seen Low win the World Cup in 2014, lose in the Final of Euro 2008 and reach three other semi-finals.

Germany's disaster at the last World Cup signalled the need for change, but Low preferred a shot at redemption – and respect for his past accomplishments gave him that. That, however, is now swiftly ebbing away.

Finishing bottom of their Nations League group and subsequent relegation was a nightmare. That was then followed by a 4-2 defeat at home to eternal rivals Holland in a Euro 2020 qualifier.

As a result, where there was once respect there is now widespread mockery.

Low's penchant for drinking espresso coffee used to be regarded as a sign of sophistication. But *Der Tagesspiegel* newspaper in Berlin now jokes, in the aftermath of Costa Rica's coach quitting because he was bored, that Low needs the endless espressos just to stay awake.

Kicker magazine conducts regular polls that solicit the opinions of Bundesliga players. Earlier this year, 60 per cent said that Low should have stepped down after the World Cup. Even his old friend Jurgen Klinsmann, who Low worked for as his assistant at the 2006 World Cup, criticised him for not showing enough respect when he summarily and surprisingly ended the international careers of World Cup winners Mats Hummels and Thomas Muller.

> "It's completely normal to have a bad year...if you think you can be among the top three teams in the world for 10 or 20 years you are mistaken"
>
> Joachim Low

That particular decision seems all the more self-defeating as Low has been experimenting with a new back-three defensive system – a tactic for which Hummels would seem perfectly suited.

A few days after the Dutch defeat, Germany limped to a fortunate 2-0 victory against Northern Ireland in their next qualifier, but that did nothing to quell the crescendo of doubt and dismay. Nor did the coach's reaction to all the dissent.

"It's completely normal to have a bad year," said Low. "It's like in life – sometimes you have to start from the bottom again.

"If you think you can be among the top three teams in the world for 10 or 20 years you are mistaken."

That may be true, but football fans rarely appreciate home truths – and certainly not German supporters who have enjoyed almost untrammelled excellence for so many decades.

Nobody would have resented a very fine coach accepting an offer from Real Madrid and it was a mistake that Low did not do so. Now, perhaps, he has missed his moment, and further problems with Germany will only diminish his appeal to the giant clubs of Europe.

Another question being openly debated across Germany is who will take over when he does depart, whether or not of his own accord?

One name which continually crops up is that of Wenger, who has been without a job for almost 18 months since leaving Arsenal.

The veteran Frenchman has said that he hopes to manage again and that he would like to take a team to the next World Cup finals, in 2022. Wenger is fluent in German, is fluent in modern attacking football and would arrive with that integral ingredient for a man in charge: respect. WS

Euro defeat...Joachim Low looks on in despair as Germany lose 4-2 at home to Holland in the Euro 2020 qualifying campaign

Keir RADNEDGE

THE INSIDER

Saudi-Qatar row shows no sign of ending

The Club World Cup only has another 14 months to run – December this year and December next year – before it heads the way of the Confederations Cup. It will, however, be succeeded in time by Gianni Infantino's revamp. With 24 teams. Then 32. Then 36...

Originally the idea of a world club cup was proposed by CONMEBOL.

In the late 1950s, envious of UEFA's European Champions Cup and highly confident in the superiority of their own clubs – in the days when South American teams did not have to sell their teenagers to Europe – the confederation issued a challenge.

Uruguay's Penarol and Santos of Brazil were the continent's initial flag-bearers before the clashes between different cultures, never mind different clubs, descended into mayhem and madness.

The concept was dead on its feet when Toyota, in the early throes of the Japanese sponsorship avalanche, threw down the cash for a one-off annual event in Tokyo. Money talks, and Nottingham Forest and Liverpool lost to a workmanlike Nacional and a fine Flamengo respectively on pitches that were dry and bumpy. The football was poor, but the sponsor was happy – and so was a Japanese football establishment chasing hosting rights to the 2002 World Cup.

In due course, Africa and Asia demanded the right to join in, so FIFA obliged by devising the seven-team event which has proved a PR lead balloon ever since 2005 – whether in Japan, Morocco or the UAE.

Europe, despite its clubs winning 12 of the last 13 Finals, remains largely uninterested, while African and Asian clubs have mostly failed to justify their involvement – though the cash on offer is far more important to them than it is to the Europeans.

Renewed fascination surrounds the last two upcoming tournaments because the host nation is Qatar, with these acting as warm-up events for the World Cup in 2022.

Global game... Al Ain (in white) and Esperance at last year's Club World Cup

The presence of Liverpool for only the second time since 1981 intrigues because they will attract the majority English-language attention of social-media platforms. And that will only exacerbate the angry frustration of Saudi Arabia's regime next door.

For the Saudis, and the coalition of neighbours trying to bring Qatar to its knees, the World Cup hosting is an extremely high-profile target. Ditto then for the Club World Cup.

> It will be interesting to see what will happen if Saudi Arabia qualify for Qatar 2022

But Saudi tactics are seriously upsetting international football. The Saudi-based Arabsat corporation provides the satellite platform through which beoutQ can rip off TV broadcasts of the World Cup and Champions League plus coverage of the big five European leagues. It pays nothing, charges nothing and thus undermines the lucrative contracts across the Middle East and North African region bought by Qatar's own beIN Sports.

Complaints from FIFA, UEFA, the European leagues and even the compromised Asian confederation have fallen on deaf Saudi ears. And no law firm in Saudi dare take up the case, for obvious reasons.

One suggestion, from a member of the FIFA Council who does not wish to be identified, was that Saudi Arabia's national team should be expelled from the World Cup qualifiers. There is, however, no such option in FIFA statutes or competition regulations.

This is, after all, a commercial dispute not a sporting one.

Indeed, it will be interesting to see what will happen if Saudi Arabia qualify for Qatar 2022.

For example, would supporters from Saudi Arabia be allowed to cross the border? Would Saudi fans even be allowed to watch the World Cup live from Qatar, free or not?

The upcoming Club World Cup may offer a straw in the desert winds. WS

England fixation with Hungary is being rerun

The pain of the hosts' 6-3 Wembley defeat by Ferenc Puskas' Hungary in 1953 continues to burn deep within the English game's soul, with questions about its provenance and meaning still being posed nearly 70 years later, even by those who never saw Puskas play.

And you only need to take a look at the sports shelves in bookshops for evidence of English football's ongoing fixation with Hungary.

Recent biographies of coaching legends Bela Gutmann and Erno Egri Erbstein have been pursued by further studies of the football legacy of central Europe in the first half of the last century.

The rambling Austro-Hungarian empire proved to be a self-destructive nationalistic powder keg, but football's development benefited from its homogeneity. Austria's greatest player, Mathias Sindelar, was born in what is now the Czech Republic; the Czechs' greatest player, Pepi Bican, was born in Vienna. The "Austrian" who oversaw it all, Hugo Meisl, was born in Bohemia.

The original coaching inspiration was Jimmy Hogan, the English-born son of an Irish mother. A modest player but a football visionary, he taught his new-fangled notion of the ultimate triumph of skill in Austria, Germany, Hungary and Switzerland.

Hogan's career has been painted in remarkable detail against the grainy pigments of the dark social and economic landscape of that era in a new biography, *Jimmy Hogan: The Greatest Football Coach Ever?* by Ashley Hine, which includes forensic examinations of why Hogan's periodic returns to English football ended only in failure. It may not have helped that, while managing by day, he delivered evening lectures in which he excoriated the standards of the English game.

In 1953 Hogan was a guest of the Hungarian delegation at Wembley to see the fruits of his work harvested not by England but by the visitors. Hungary had learned from Hogan; England not.

In the 1930s, FTC (Ferencvaros) and Ujpest had been among the leading clubs in central Europe. At one time almost half the clubs in Italy's Serie A were coached by Hungarians. Arpad Weisz led Internazionale-Ambrosiana and then Bologna to three league titles. Tragically, he would be murdered in Auschwitz – and Weisz was far from being the only victim of central European football, which owed so much to its Jewish communities.

The careers of many of Hogan's pupils and contemporaries are examined in Jonathan Wilson's *The Names Heard Long Ago*, while David Bailey, in *Magical Magyars*, details the status of Puskas and co in the social and political context of the Cold War era.

Meanwhile, back in Hungary, Prime Minister Viktor Orban has resurrected national pride in the "Golden Team" by creating the Puskas Academy in his own home town of Felcsut.

In Hungary, as in England, the fascination never fades. WS

Wunderteam...coach Jimmy Hogan (back row, far left) and his Austria side

WINNERS

CRISTIANO RONALDO
Four goals for Portugal in their 5-1 victory over Lithuania made him the all-time leading goalscorer in European Championship qualifying games with 25.

GUINEA-BISSAU
Back-to-back victories over Sao Tome e Principe gave them their first World Cup qualifying wins since 1996.

SEVILLA
The team were early leaders of La Liga under former Spain and Real Madrid boss Julen Lopetegui.

need to swap these pics over

BRAZIL
Suffered their first international defeat for 17 games when Peru beat them 1-0.

UMARU BANGURA
Fans attacked his home in Freetown after his injury-time penalty miss against Liberia saw Sierra Leone exit the World Cup.

LIVERPOOL
A 2-0 defeat at Napoli meant that Jurgen Klopp's team became the first defending champions to lose their opening Champions League match of the following campaign since Milan in 1994.

LOSERS

"Winning the cup was the trigger. It was a secondary competition and it put Champions League qualification at risk"

Marcelino believes he was sacked by Valencia owner Peter Lim for winning the Spanish Cup

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Appointments, sackings & loans

IN

Main man... Albert Celades

EUROPE

Former Spain under-21 coach **ALBERT CELADES** replaced Marcelino in charge of Valencia. His most recent position was as an assistant to Julen Lopetegui at Real Madrid.

QUIQUE SANCHEZ FLORES returned to manage Watford for a second time after Javi Gracia was sacked with the side bottom of the Premier League.

Former Bayern Munich and Germany goalkeeper **OLIVER KAHN** will join the club's board in January and eventually replace the chairman, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, in December 2021.

Al Ahly boss... Rene Weiler

Home... Diego Maradona

Maradona back in Argentina

DIEGO MARADONA was appointed coach of an Argentinian top-flight side for a third time, taking charge of Gimnasia y Esgrima until the end of the season.

Based in the city of La Plata in greater Buenos Aires, Gimnasia were 18th in the Superliga and in danger of relegation at the time of Maradona's appointment.

Most recently, the 58-year-old Maradona coached second-tier Mexican side Dorados de Sinaloa but failed to take them into Liga MX and quit, citing health reasons.

Guinea job ...Didier Six

AFRICA

RENE WEILER replaced Martin Lasarte as coach of Egypt's Al Ahly.

HOSSAM EL BADRY, who led Al Ahly to the 2012 CAF Champions League, was named coach of Egypt, while Cameroon appointed **TONI CONCEICAO**. Guinea replaced Paul Put with **DIDIER SIX**, while **MOLEFI NTSEKI** took over from Stuart Baxter as South Africa coach.

India Super League side NorthEast United signed Ghana's all-time leading goalscorer **ASAMOAH GYAN**.

ASIA

VADIM ABRAMOV replaced Hector Cuper as coach of Uzbekistan.

OUT

Gone...Francois Zahoui

EUROPE

Bulgaria's joint-record goalscorer and former Manchester United striker **DIMITAR BERBATOV** announced his retirement at the age of 38.

CONCACAF

Veteran Uruguayan **GUSTAVO MATOSAS** stood down as coach of Costa Rica.

AFRICA

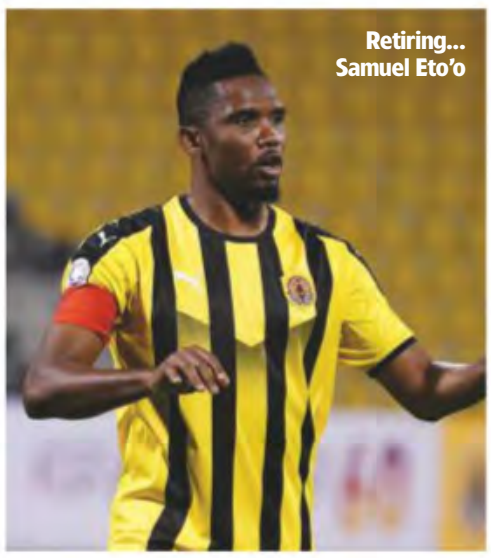
African Player of the Year a record four times and a triple UEFA Champions League winner – with Barcelona (2006, 2009) and Internazionale (2010) – **SAMUEL ETO'O** announced his retirement after leaving Qatar Sports Club.

FRANCOIS ZAHOUI, who led Ivory Coast to the Africa Cup of Nations Final in 2012, left his post as coach of Niger.

ASIA

Croatian coach **ROMEO JOZAK** parted company with Kuwait.

Asian Player of the Year in 2006, former Qatar winger **KHALFAN IBRAHIM** retired at the age of 31.



Retiring... Samuel Eto'o

"I live day to day. I didn't realise being a national team coach was so boring"

Gustavo Matosas on resigning as boss of Costa Rica

Hamburg boss... Gutendorf with Kevin Keegan

OBITUARIES

Rudi GUTENDORF
(1926-2019)

The holder of the world record for coaching more teams than anyone else – although even he himself could not decide on whether it was 54 or 55 teams – in 32 countries across five continents, Gutendorf's career in the dugout spanned half a century and saw him lead nine clubs in his native Germany as well as 18 national sides, including Australia, China and Fiji.

Born in Koblenz, he played for his home-town club, TuS Neuendorf, and found his way into coaching by accident. While convalescing in Davos after a lung infection, he heard that Blue Stars Zurich needed a coach. He did not have anything as stuffy as a certificate, but as an admirer of German national coach Sepp Herberger he felt he knew enough – and he never looked back.

Football, however, was sometimes the least challenging aspect of his work.

In Rwanda he contrived to build a team of players from both Huthu and Tutsi tribes whose genocidal civil war had cost more than a million lives. He called it his "miracle of Kigali – better than a championship, certainly my greatest achievement as a coach".

In Chile, while national boss in the early 1970s, he would drink whisky with president Salvador Allende – and thus had to flee in haste after the coup in 1973. The following year Chile went to the World Cup finals without him.

Although he failed to win a trophy in his homeland, in the first season of the newly created Bundesliga, in 1963-64, he developed a fledgling early version of pressing with Meiderich SV (now known as MSV Duisburg). His star player was Helmut Rahn, West Germany's 1954 World Cup-winning outside right, and Gutendorf gave him a racehorse "to keep him out of the pubs and the bars" as MSV finished runners-up to Cologne.

Keir Radnedge

Tesfaye GEBREYESUS (1941-2019)

Refereed at six editions of the Africa Cup of Nations, including the Final in 1970 and 1980, and was later president of the Eritrea National Football Federation.

Nicolas LEOZ (1928-2019)

A former president of leading Paraguayan club Libertad and then the country's football association, he was later president of CONMEBOL from 1986 to 2013 and served as a member of the FIFA ExCo, representing South America, from 1998 to 2013.

After being accused of bribery and money laundering, he resigned from FIFA and CONMEBOL, citing health issues, and spent his final years under house arrest in his homeland fighting extradition to the USA.

Cup plea...Nicolas Leoz

Former FA chairman Lord Triesmann famously claimed that in return for supporting England's 2018 World Cup bid, Leoz requested a UK knighthood and that the FA Cup be named after him.

Mamadou TEUW (1959-2019)

Senegalese defender who represented his country at three Africa Cup of Nations, including the 1990 tournament in Algeria when they reached the semi-finals. As well as his homeland, he also played in Belgium, where he represented Club Brugge and Charleroi.

Fernando RICKSEN (1976-2019)

Former Holland international who died at the age of 43 after a six-year battle with motor neurone disease.

He played for Fortuna Sittard and AZ in his homeland before joining Rangers in Scotland and winning two Premiership titles and five cups. He later won the Russian Premier League with Zenit.

Battle...Fernando Ricksen

Brian GLANVILLE

THE VOICE OF FOOTBALL

How many gifted kids did Newcastle miss because of Peter Beardsley?

Peter Beardsley has been properly and all too belatedly punished for his misdemeanours. But what of Newcastle United, his club?

A seven-month suspension for abusing black players will presumably mean a total future absence from the game, but Newcastle themselves cut an abysmally poor, even self-destructive, profile in this horrid affair.

Beardsley's offences go back at least 16 years, during which time he escaped any sanction, let alone dismissal, by the club. But in his bigoted behaviour he ensured that many a promising young footballer was demoralised and lost to the club.

"We regret the outcome," stated the FA panel which passed judgment on Beardsley. But why? There could surely be no other outcome than to find him guilty of deplorable behaviour over many long years. Ross Gardner, a one-time captain of the England under-17 team, says his own career was sabotaged by Beardsley's bigotry. How many others fell by the wayside as its result?

There is plainly a moral charge against the club for its gross inactivity.

Guilty...Beardsley

Newcastle were clearly their own saboteurs, losing who knows how many young players who could have contributed to their success. Perverse is hardly a strong enough adjective to characterise their passive behaviour.

How could they stand by and do nothing when who knows how many promising black youngsters were being demoralised and frustrated?

As long ago as 2002 the club had ample opportunity to deal with the scandal. The parents of no fewer than seven youngsters at the club raised their concerns about the way Beardsley was treating their progeny. Yet, astonishingly, the club supported Beardsley.

None so blind as those who cannot see...

Newcastle were clearly their own saboteurs, losing who knows how many young players who could have contributed to their success

Saka and Greenwood offer hope for the future

For Arsenal, who for too many seasons have failed to produce first-teamers from their junior ranks, it now looks as if the tide has emphatically turned.

When Mesut Ozil was left out of the side that played at Eintracht Frankfurt in the Europa League, Joe Willock and Bukayo Saka displayed exceptional promise, though the team as a whole was greatly flattered by a 3-0 win in Germany.

At a mere 18 years old, Saka is already displaying a poise, skill and confidence which make him a formidable attacker. This is a winger who shows the classical gifts which can distinguish the role.

However flattering the ultimate margin of victory in Frankfurt may have been for the Gunners, they plainly have an attack of real consequence.

For all his experience, vast salary and undoubted skills, Ozil was simply not missed. In this game, an irrepressible Saka not only scored his first goal for the club, but set up the other two in the admittedly flattering victory.

But however impressive their attack, led by the experienced Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, it is plain that Arsenal will not always be able to rely upon the accomplished goalkeeping of their second-choice keeper Emiliano Martinez, who was making his first appearance of the season. Arsenal could plainly do worse than to make him first choice.

Meanwhile, Manchester United were rewarded for deploying 17-year-old striker Mason Greenwood in their home match against Astana in the Europa League.

In pre-season matches, Greenwood had already scored against Internazionale and Leeds United. Now he gave a far from fluent United a narrow success against modest opposition. His manager, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, had already eulogised the youngster as one of the best finishers he had ever seen – and goodness knows he has seen quite a few and was no mean finisher himself.

Almost casually, Greenwood glided past one defender and then coolly shot through the legs of the visiting keeper against Astana.

"Get him inside the box," said his enthusiastic manager, "and you know something is going to happen."

Filling the boots of Romelu Lukaku, sold in the summer, may have seemed a substantial demand, but the omens are distinctly positive.

Formidable... Bukayo Saka

> "Get him inside the box and you know something is going to happen"
> Ole Gunnar Solskjaer on Mason Greenwood

Bernardo Silva shines for City but Laporte is big loss

For Bernardo Silva, his notable success with Manchester City confirms the abundant natural talents which were mysteriously overlooked when as a child he joined the Benfica academy, his grandfather actually paying a fee for the supposed privilege.

A dozen years later the then-manager thought him too small and relegated him to a left-back position in the B team. He entered himself at university but was saved for football when a perceptive Monaco came in for him and transported him to the French league.

There, as a right-sided attacker, he flourished and became one of the salient players in an outstanding team. And he still looks back on the time when Monaco held off substantial challenges to win the French title, fondly recalling: "In France nobody expected we could do it."

His present contract lasts until 2025 and he seems very content at City.

One man, as we all know, doesn't make a team, but losing their commanding centre-back Aymeric Laporte to injury has clearly unsettled a previously triumphant City team.

John Stones, who stepped into the breach but hardly filled it, carelessly gave away a goal and belied his expensive reputation against Norwich City, a team supposedly weakened by injuries who inflicted City's first Premier League defeat since January.

Injured... Aymeric Laporte

The Tottenham Hotspur mystery

Hard to make sense of Tottenham, lurching from what you might call the sublime to the ridiculous.

Thrashing Crystal Palace 4-0 on the Saturday at home, the virtue seemed mysteriously to go out of them when four days later they were held to a 2-2 draw in Athens against an Olympiakos team who were able to recover from 2-0 down.

How to explain the abrupt fall in form of Christian Eriksen, the chief motivator of the team? He was the worst player for a team he has so often inspired, and none of the Spurs side remotely matched the coruscating form of the home team's Daniel Podence on the wing, going round Ben Davies time and again at will.

● Read Brian Glanville's weekly online column at worldsoccer.com

Ansu Fati

Barca teen in demand ahead of Under-17 World Cup

Until a few weeks ago, not many people in Spain had heard of Ansu Fati, the 16-year-old winger from Guinea-Bissau who has enjoyed an extraordinary rise since making his Barcelona debut in August.

In September, aged 16 years and 321 days, he became the youngest player to appear for Barca in the Champions League. He had made his first-team debut the previous month, coming off the bench against Real Betis, and a week later he scored his first goal, against Osasuna, again as a substitute.

He made his first senior start against Valencia, scoring a second-minute goal and also providing an assist, and then played an hour in a goalless draw at Borussia Dortmund.

"There's going to be a lot of hype with Ansu – a lot," said Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde after the Valencia game. "What we have to do is try to keep it down. Our job is to protect the player.

"But there's no denying Ansu is a player who has something special. He seems much more mature than his age. We saw things [against Valencia] that we see in training.

"It's not easy to be a Barcelona player, especially for a player as young as Ansu. It's not normal to score with your first touch and to assist with your second. This performance was a bit exaggerated in that sense.

"Things will even themselves out. We want him to get to know the league and to see how complicated it is [playing for Barcelona]. The kid is still developing."

Barcelona's plan had been for the youngster to return to the B side after gaining a taste of first-team football. But

First of many... celebrating his goal against Valencia with Antoine Griezmann

In demand...the youngster has already attracted a lot of attention

Valverde, who is under pressure after some poor results, now looks set to keep him in the senior squad.

According to *Sport* newspaper, Fati was on the list of 50 players delivered to FIFA by Spain coach David Gordo ahead of the Under-17 World Cup in Brazil.

Fati is now eligible to play for Spain after the process to give him a Spanish passport was fast-tracked

"Ansu has the possibility of representing another national team but he has chosen Spain," Gordo said. "We are doing everything possible for that to happen and we are eager to have him available as soon as possible.

> "There's no denying Ansu is a player who has something special"
>
> **Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde**

"The federation has been working for a while on having Ansu play at the World Cup. Although I have not spoken to him personally, because he is not a player we can select yet, I am told he really wants to play for Spain and go with his Barca team-mates to the national team.

"We have followed him in recent seasons. We like him. His profile fits in perfectly with the Spanish national team."

However, a complication is that Portugal may yet have a say in his future.

Fati was born in Guinea-Bissau before moving to Herrera, near Seville, at the age of six. But Guinea-Bissau is a former Portuguese colony and his father, Bori, originally emigrated to Portugal after leaving Bissau before the family moved on to Spain.

Registration...Ansu Fati's federation card for the 2009-10 season

"My dream was to see my son playing for Portugal and I think that was also his dream, but now it is difficult," Bori told Portuguese daily *A Bola*. "Some time ago I spoke with a director from the Portuguese Football Federation. The conversation was positive and we agreed to talk the following day but that person hasn't called me back.

"Then, with these matches that he played, the pressure from Spain grew very strong and I've been contacted by the president of the Spanish federation."

Bori claims Bissau-born Benfica player Umaro Embalo could help convince his son to play for Portugal.

"He feels Portuguese and so do I," added Bori. "And it would be easy for him to play for Portugal. It would be enough for Umaro Embalo, the Benfica player, to convince him. He is a great friend and speaks every day with Ansu.

"Everything is in the hands of Ansu, he will take a decision now."

The situation is further complicated by Barca's opposition to Fati being called up for the under-17 tournament and Valverde is cautious about such a move, saying: "He's still not been called up so we will see what happens. But it would be a setback because he's a player who's just coming into the first team and we don't know what will happen in that run of games. If it would have been now, with players missing, it would be a bigger setback. But we're going to be cautious until the final squad is announced."

Spain have until October 16 to name their squad for the tournament which kicks off on October 26, with the Final taking place on November 17.

John Holmesdale

Djamel Belmadi

Algeria coach combining the best of both Europe and Africa

The prototype for a coach of an African national team used to be pretty standard. The grizzly, hardened local veteran; the cynical import whose options had largely run out elsewhere; or the young Frenchman seeking to make a name for himself.

However, the success of this year's Africa Cup of Nations winner opens the door for a new wave of leaders who have their feet planted firmly in both Africa and Europe.

Belmadi is a member of a diaspora generation that is increasingly the bedrock of African football. Born in Europe to African parents, they are schooled in a professional structure, but with a feel and an empathy for the peculiarities of the continent.

It was no accident that the 43-year-old from the suburbs of Paris – whose footballing education took in spells with Paris Saint-Germain, Marseille, Celta Vigo, Manchester City and Southampton – was able to galvanise a talented group whose ability had been obvious for years but who lacked the conviction to do anything substantial with it.

> "He gave the team a new soul ...he instilled his desire to win"
> **Algeria's 1990 AFCON-winning coach, Ali Fergani**

Eleven months after being appointed, Belmadi led Algeria to victory at the 2019 AFCON, ending a near three-decade drought for a country that has frequently flattered to deceive.

"He gave the team a new soul in a few months; he dared to make changes and he also acted with fairness," explains Ali Fergani, who was in charge of Algeria's previous Nations Cup winning team, in 1990. "He instilled in the squad his desire to win. That's what allowed him to win."

Algeria had been through a succession of coaches since their last decent performance – when Vahid Halilhodzic led them to the last 16 at the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, where they took Germany to extra time.

Christian Gourcuff, Nabil Neghiz, Milovan Rajevac, Georges Leekens, Lucas Alcaraz and Rabah Madjer all proved unable to build on that despite plenty of individual quality that suggested Algeria could dominate the African landscape for years to come. Missing out on Russia last year was particularly galling and the testy Madjer, whose coaching career has been the antithesis of his glorious playing days, managed to antagonise many of the key elements in the squad, particularly those born in France to Algerian parents.

Roots...Belmadi (above) was born in France to Algerian parents

Belmadi was Algeria's captain at the Cup of Nations in 2004 and had shown a natural appetite for coaching when his playing days came to an end in 2009.

He quickly proved a winner, claiming four Qatar league titles with Lekhwiya/Al Duhail and also had a spell in charge of the Qatari national team, leading them to the Gulf Cup in 2014, before losing his job after a poor showing at the 2015 Asian Cup.

Algeria had wanted Carlos Queiroz, Marc Wilmots or Halilhodzic to take the national job last year and there was much scepticism when they settled on Belmadi. The main complaint was that

his coaching experience was restricted to one country. But he paid no heed to such concerns and quickly set about winning over the players, engaging them in discussions and decision making regarding the team's direction.

The players have revealed that Belmadi tightened the rules but also worked hard on building the team spirit that is vital in tournament situations. There would also be no sacred cows, with national skipper Riyad Mahrez among those punished for tardiness.

Most importantly, he made tough selection calls.

Star midfielder Yacine Brahimi, for example, lost his place to Ismael Bennacer, who had flopped at Arsenal and been relegated at Empoli but went on to be named player of the tournament in Egypt this summer.

"He put his confidence in his players and his choices were wise," says Fergani.

Mark Gleeson

On top...celebrating success at the 2019 AFCON

Samson Siasia

Disgraced coach banned for life

Life ban...former Nigeria coach Siasia

The repercussions from the match-fixing epidemic that Wilson Perumal instigated across Africa continue to deliver sanctions, with the former Nigeria player and coach the latest – and by far the most high profile – of those to be punished.

The 52-year-old has been banned for life by FIFA for his involvement, when coach of Nigeria, in a concocted result against Argentina, in Abuja in June 2011.

Referee Ibrahim Chaibou of Niger awarded two controversial penalties during the game, with Victor Obinna scoring for Nigeria in the 27th minute and Mauro Boselli on target for Argentina with the last kick of the match.

So contrived were the match official's efforts to ensure a consolation goal for Argentina in a 4-1 defeat that he added seven minutes of stoppage time to the international friendly. Within days, FIFA had publicly flagged up the game for investigation.

> "I've not done anything wrong and will continue to fight to clear my name"

Siasia's exact role in the affair has not been made public but FIFA says he accepted bribes to manipulate the result.

The Nigerian denied any involvement and when asked for a reaction in the hours immediately after his punishment was pronounced he denied even knowing that FIFA had been investigating. He did, however, cancel a planned press conference when it emerged he had been invited months previously by FIFA to give his side of the story.

"I've not done anything wrong and will continue to fight to clear my name," says Siasia. "Everything is now in the hands of my legal team."

A key member of the Nigeria side that won the 1994 Africa Cup of Nations in Tunisia and went to the US the same year for the Super Eagles' maiden World Cup appearance, Siasia moved from Lagos to Belgium in 1987 and made more than 150 appearances for Lokeren before joining Nantes in France. He scored 16 goals in 51 games for his country.

His early coaching successes include leading Nigeria to the 2005 Under-20 World Cup Final, where they lost to Lionel Messi's Argentina, and a silver medal at the 2008 Olympics.

He was an assistant coach with the national team before taking the job full-time when replacing Lars Lagerback after the 2010 World Cup. Failure to qualify for the 2012 Cup of Nations cost him the job 12 months later, although he did return briefly in 2016 and took the under-23s to the Olympics that year.

At the end of August, Siasia filed an appeal with FIFA and CAS against his life ban. He was also having to deal with the kidnapping of his mother, Ogere Siasia, for the second time in four years.

Mark Gleeson

Romelu Lukaku

Inter striker highlights Italian football's ongoing problems with racism

Escape...Cagliari fans (above) at the Inter game, in which Lukaku (right) scored from the penalty spot

Action...Atalanta complain to referee Daniele Orsato

Newly arrived in Serie A, Belgian striker Romelu Lukaku must be wondering to himself about the mindset of some Italian fans, and indeed commentators.

In only his second game since joining Inter from Manchester United, the 26-year-old was subjected to racist abuse away at Cagliari as he stepped up to take what turned out to be a match-winning penalty in a 2-1 victory.

The next day, Lukaku aired his frustration on Instagram, writing: "Many players in the last month have suffered from racial abuse. I did too yesterday.

"Ladies and gentlemen it is 2019 and instead of going forward we're going backwards."

He spoke of the "shame" of racial discrimination, calling on "football federations all over the world to react strongly on all cases of discrimination".

Yet, the following Monday, the Italian federation's own sports judge ruled that Cagliari had no case to answer in relation to the monkey chants directed at Lukaku.

The sports judge's report suggested that, although "cries from individual spectators" were heard as Lukaku prepared to take the penalty, they were not perceived either by the federation's own inspectors or by the stadium security as [racially] discriminatory. So, no fine for Cagliari.

Lukaku must have imagined the racist abuse. As, presumably, did Juventus' French midfielder Blaise Matuidi during a game at Cagliari in January 2018. As did Juve's Moise Kean at Cagliari this March.

What was not imaginary, however, was the comment made on local TV channel Top Calcio 24 – which deals essentially with Juventus, Milan and Inter – by experienced commentator Luciano Passirani. Offering an enthusiastic appraisal of Lukaku, he said: "I think that Lukaku is as good a player as Inter could have bought.

"Right now, I don't see a better player in Italy in any team, not at Juventus, not at Milan, nor Lazio nor Roma.

"I really like him as a player because he is so strong, he is a carbon copy of Zapata [of Atalanta]. He has something that other players do not have and then he keeps on scoring goals.

"Guys like him lift the whole team. In the one-on-one situation, he just kills you. If you try to tackle him, you end up on the ground. Either you have 10 bananas wrapped around your waist to give him to eat or just give up."

Within hours, Passirani had been

sacked on air by a member of Top Calcio 24's management, who certainly moved with an alacrity perhaps denied to the football federation.

A week later, during the Serie A game between Atalanta and Fiorentina – played at the neutral venue of Parma because Atalanta are currently carrying out renovations to their home stadium in Bergamo – Fiorentina's Brazilian full-back Dalbert complained to the referee, Daniele Orsato, that he was the object of racist chants and monkey noises from some Atalanta fans.

It is believed that the chants came from a small number of people but, even if the majority of spectators at the Stadio Ennio Tardini could not hear them, Orsato could. Accordingly, he stopped the game for three minutes and asked for the public address system to read out a warning about racist chants, with the implied threat that if the chants continued he would abandon the game.

When the warning was read out, however, it was greeted with jeers and whistles by a majority of fans. In the end, Orsato resumed the game and there were no further problems.

That incident may have involved just a handful of spectators, but the reception provoked by the public announcement calls for pause for thought.

Senior football writer Maurizio Crosetti of daily *La Repubblica* commented: "There are not just four idiots but rather thousands of violent racists on too many terraces in Italy... when the public address system called on fans to stop their [racist] chants, practically the entire stadium responded by booing, and they were many and fearsome too.

"Rhetoric would have us believe that these people are marginal, that there are not many of them, just a few die-hard, almost romantic fans. Instead, you would have to conclude that the heart of the ultra fan is increasingly being invaded by evil."

> "Either you have 10 bananas wrapped around your waist to give him to eat or just give up" **Luciano Passirani**

Nor did FIFA's Italo-Swiss president Gianni Infantino play down the significance of the incident when commenting on Italian state TV: "In Italy, the situation with regard to racism has not improved and this is very serious. We've got to fight this through education, by condemnation and by talking about it.

"People who are responsible for these acts should be identified and then expelled from the stadium.

"I have to pay my compliments to Orsato. It is never easy to take certain decisions in the heat of a game."

After the game, the respective coaches, Gian Piero Gasperini of Atalanta and Fiorentina's Vincenzo Montella, confessed they had heard nothing, with Gasperini even suggesting that the whole incident had been exaggerated.

What will matter now is how the referee dealt with the incident in his match report. Depending on this, disciplinary sanctions may yet be imposed on Atalanta.

Dalbert, Lukaku and other black players in Italian football must really wonder where they have landed.

Paddy Agnew

Famalicao

Shock league leaders in Portugal – with help from Jorge Mendes

It is early days in the Primeira Liga but already the story of the Portuguese season is shaping up to be Famalicao, the newly promoted club whose victory away to Sporting in Lisbon confirmed their position at the top of the table after six matches.

The club from the small town of Vila Nova de Famalicao, near Braga in northern Portugal, are back in the top flight for the first time for 25 years. They had previously spent six seasons in the Primeira Liga, the most recent season being 1993-94, after which they dropped down the divisions, falling as low as the regional fifth tier in 2008-09.

With a stadium holding just 5,300 it would be easy to portray Famalicao as an all-too-rare fairytale in a modern game tarnished by money and greed. But, on closer inspection, all is not what it seems.

As with so much of Portuguese football these days, the hand of agent Jorge Mendes is never far away. Many of the players who joined Famalicao this summer are either clients of Mendes' Gestifute agency or have played for clubs with strong links to Mendes.

The turning point in Famalicao's recent fortunes was the 2018 takeover of the club by the Quantum Pacific Group (QPG), fronted by Israeli billionaire Idan Ofer, who also owns a significant stake in Atletico Madrid, who paid an eyebrow-raising fee of €125million for Mendes client Joao Felix this summer, a deal that made the teenager the fifth-most expensive player of all time.

QPG's arrival on the scene facilitated the arrival of 18 new players in the summer of 2018 and enabled Famalicao to pursue a successful promotion from the second tier. During that campaign, coach Sergio Vieira was replaced by ex-Santa Clara and Academica boss Carlos Pinto, but the promotion did not earn Pinto a new contract. Instead, the club turned to Joao Pedro Sousa, the long-time former assistant to Marco Silva at Greek side Olympiakos, and Hull City, Watford and Everton in England.

This season brought a further churn of players, with 19 new names added to the Famalicao roster. Following a pattern similar to that of Wolverhampton Wanderers, many of the new arrivals were promising youngsters from established Portuguese and Spanish clubs with close ties to Gestifute.

Agent...Jorge Mendes

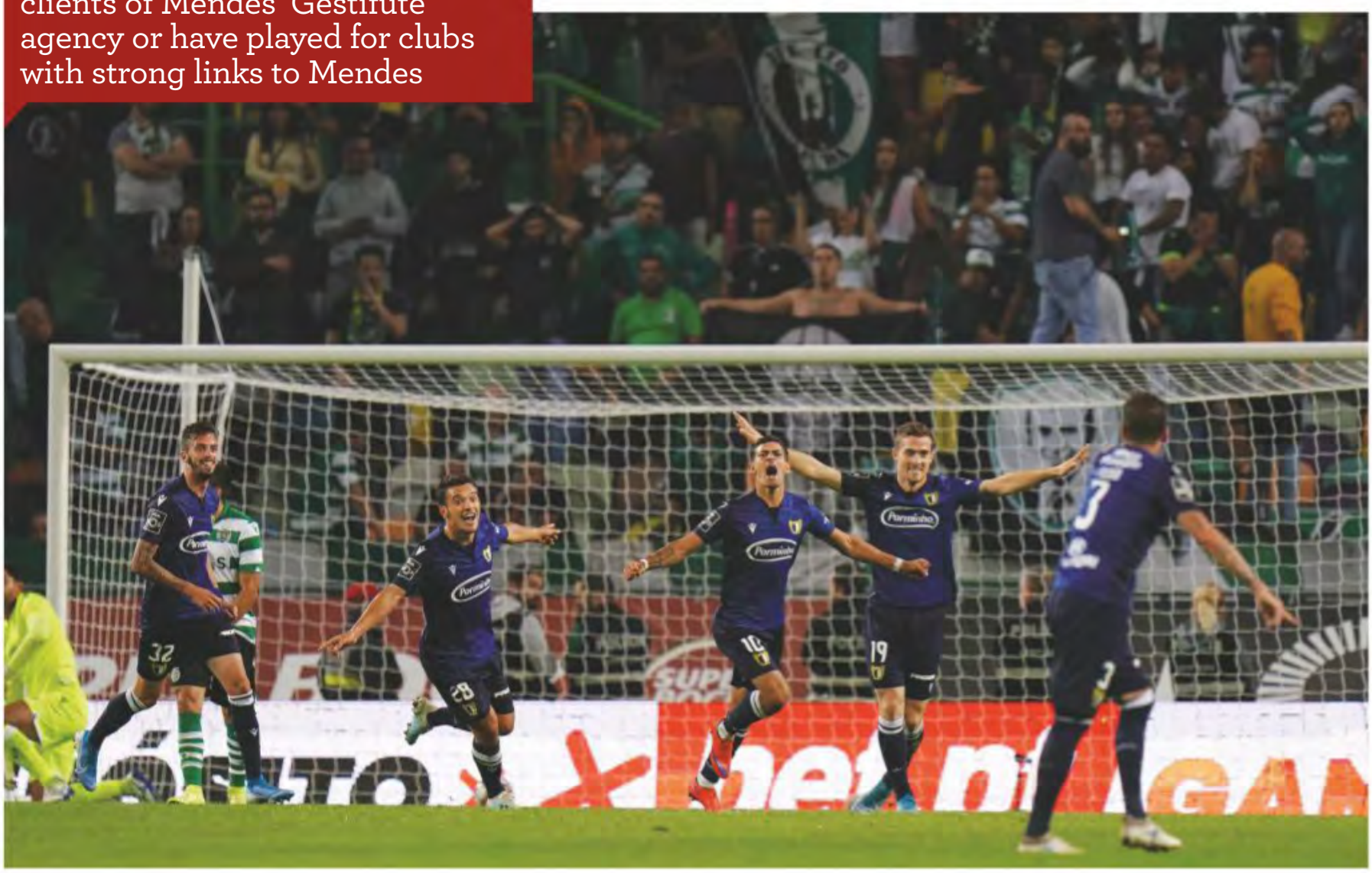
The most eye-catching deal was the loan signing of Portugal under-21 winger Diogo Goncalves who arrived – along with another Mendes client, attacking midfielder Guga – from Benfica. Uruguayan pair Nehuen Perez and Nicolas Schiappacasse were loaned from Atletico Madrid, while Wolves sent defender Roderick Miranda and concluded a permanent deal for midfielder Pedro Goncalves.

Other signings include 19-year-old defensive midfielder Gustavo Assuncao, from Atletico Madrid, England under-20 left-back Josh Tymon – who worked with Sousa at Hull – on loan from Stoke City, and former Tottenham Hotspur trainee Ruben Lameiras from Plymouth Argyle.

The 2-1 victory over Sporting alerted the wider world to the Famalicao story. They have yet to face Benfica or Porto, but the early signs are that something is stirring in northern Portugal.

Gavin Hamilton

> Many of the players who joined Famalicao this summer are either clients of Mendes' Gestifute agency or have played for clubs with strong links to Mendes



Upset...celebrating a goal at Sporting

SPECIAL FEATURE

EURO 2020

The countdown starts here!

Words: Nick Bidwell and Gavin Hamilton

In a special feature, we take a look at the qualifying groups and the standout performers so far

KEY DATES

22.11.19 Play-off draw
30.11.19 Final tournament draw
26.03.20 Play-off semi-finals
31.03.20 Play-off finals
12.06.20 Opening game (Olimpico, Rome)
12.07.20 Final (Wembley, London)

LIKELY PLAY-OFF TEAMS

(based on current standings)

Path A
Switzerland, Holland, Iceland, Bulgaria/Israel/Hungary*

Path B
Bosnia, Austria, Wales, Bulgaria/Israel/Hungary*

Path C
Scotland, Norway, Serbia, Bulgaria/Israel/Hungary*

Path D
Georgia, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Belarus

*In the current scenario, a draw would decide which of Bulgaria, Israel or Hungary would fill the empty slot in Path C, which would compete in Path B and which would go into Path A

Facetoface

ANDRIY SHEVCHENKO

"Modern footballers need a lot more intelligence"

Ukraine's coach talks about the challenges he is facing in the Euro 2020 qualifying campaign

You were Mykhaylo Formenko's assistant at Euro 2016. How did you approach that first coaching assignment?
It was my first experience. I joined his technical staff just before the tournament. It was a good experience, being on the staff and learning from those that are in competition with you.

Formenko was a conservative coach. How did you set about building the team after Euro 2016?
The team plays with my views and ideas. We tried to develop the players to play the way we do today. We try to control the possession, build the game and play attractive football. In the last three years Ukrainian players have been improving. We have changed the mentality of the national team, you know, to really develop and display all their technical qualities on the pitch. Ukraine has a great midfield and a very good defence who work but can also build up the play from the back. That is the basis of Ukraine's game. I have improved the tactical system. We were already aware of the quality of the players. You develop the game in such a way that you can use the best qualities of your players.

Which coach has influenced you the most?
Valeriy Lobanovskyi. He is one of the coaches that changed the history of contemporary football. In my career he was a special person, not just as a coach. Lobanovskyi transformed my talent into a real football player. He gave me a lot of confidence and instructions. He gave my career in football a direction.

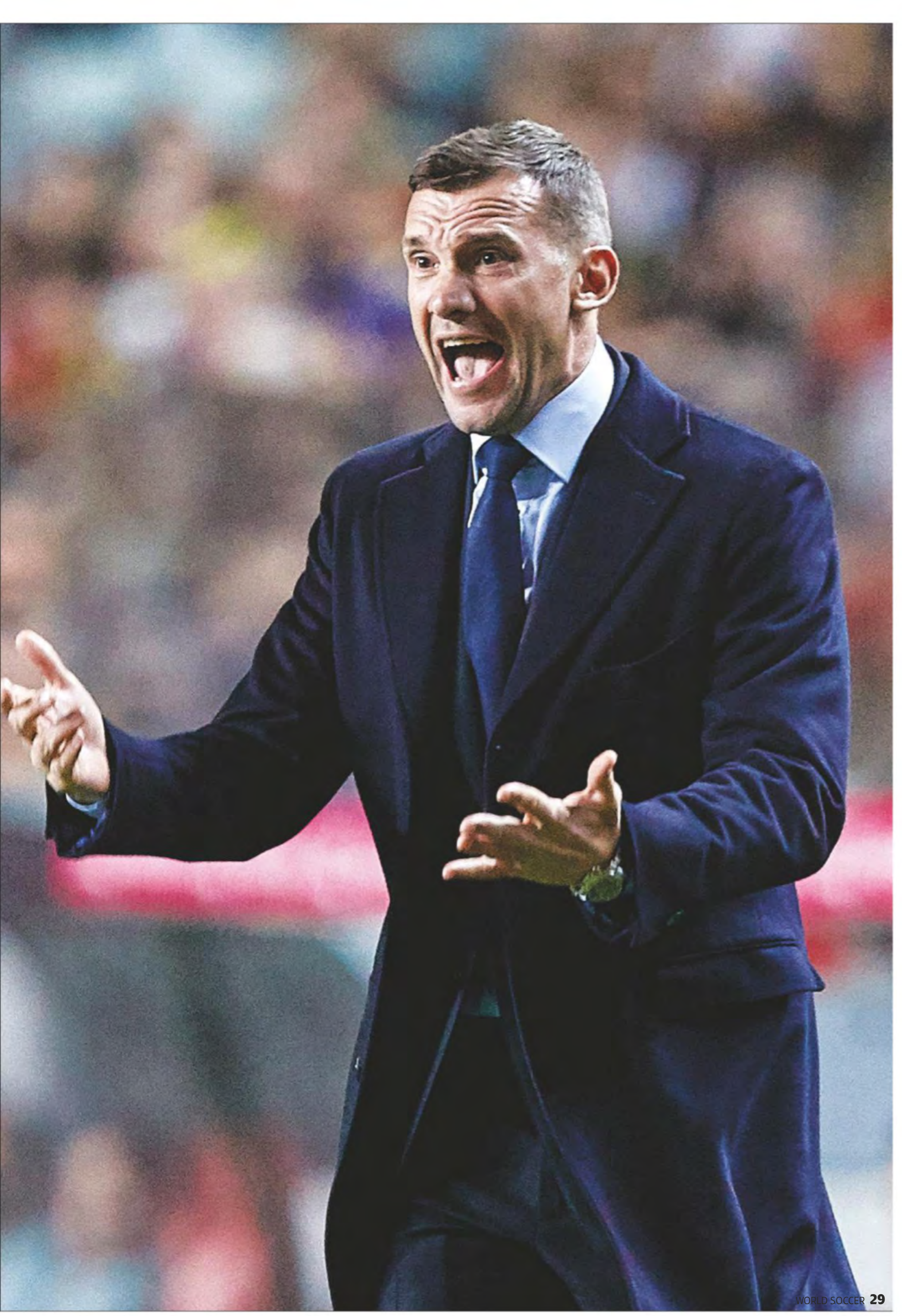
How did his philosophy change football in the USSR and Ukraine?
It is impossible to briefly explain his philosophy. He was one of the first coaches to create a training methodology based on science. That is what made him very special. He was a great psychologist as well. He worked the minds of the players perfectly to give them confidence and belief. He created winners and winning teams.

Which other coaches have left an impression on you?
In the last 20 years, Jose Mourinho has been one of the most successful coaches. Everyone has a different style, but Jose has shown stability in his philosophy and stability in his methodology. In modern football I like Pep Guardiola, Jurgen Klopp, Mauricio Pochettino, and even Diego Simeone. In the past, Johan Cruyff was incredible, Marcelo Lippi. I develop my own vision and my own style. Of course, I have a lot of experience as a player and all of those names gave me something that I can use as a coach, but my idea is to really develop my own vision.

What does a modern coach need most in order to be successful?
It is not so different from the past. Success is all based on results, but today simply winning to achieve success is not enough. Modern football requires an attractive, balanced game in which you use a lot of different features. It is not just about counter-attacking; modern teams need to understand how to press, how to transition quickly, how to balance the game, how to gain possession. Winning alone is not enough anymore. Today, fans demand that you play attractive football.

Lobanovskyi once said that "to be a manager you must forget the player you were". How did you transition to coaching?
You know, it is most difficult at the start for a coach who used to be a player. When you start coaching immediately after ending your playing career it is quite difficult to relinquish the idea of playing. I took enough time to transition to coaching after my playing career so it was not that hard. After my coaching diplomas I began as an assistant coach. The transition was quite easy. I can't imagine being a player anymore. This is my full-time job and I think like a coach.

What did you learn from the 2018 World Cup qualifiers when you were in a group with Croatia and Iceland?
I learned a lot about my players. First of all that we were heading in the right direction. All the numbers and our performances showed that. There were just a few ingredients missing – finishing was one of them. We created enough but didn't convert our chances. There should also have been a little more balance between the defence and the midfield. Ukraine had a lot of young players who had just begun their careers with the national team. It was their first qualifying experience. We had a chance to qualify directly or reach the play-offs in the ➤



last game against Croatia. The group was very tough, but the experience the young players got during the campaign helped to build their confidence and their belief. It was the confirmation that we are working in the right way. After the qualifiers, we changed a few things and the team improved a lot.

What did you learn about yourself as a coach?
My ideas are important, but to not get frustrated at times. The results don't always reflect the reality of the games. I always believed that we were on the right track, even during different match situations and in different games. We always work hard to improve the team. It is the confirmation of you dedicating time, of you fully committing to your work. You have to have talent, but a lot of things will come through hard work. In the modern world you need to be open to new ideas, but you have to go through a lot of work. That is what I believe in.

Have you managed to address the lack of attacking strength?
I think we are a more balanced team today, in terms of [the rate] between creating chances and scoring. And also in defence. Ukraine looks a lot more solid. Young players have become leaders in the team. Some have improved incredibly at their clubs, playing in England, playing in Italy. Of course, that elevates the confidence of the players.

In June, Ukraine won the Under-20 World Cup...
It is a big bonus for Ukraine. Obviously, this young generation can really reinforce the national team in the future. That is what we will wait for and the victory was a big success for the country.

"[Winning the Under-20 World Cup] is a big bonus for Ukraine...this young generation can really reinforce the national team"

In general, is the classic number nine disappearing from the game?
Modern football requires a lot more from players, in particular from midfielders and wingers. It also depends on whether you play with one or two strikers. The position of second striker doesn't exist anymore for me. With one striker up front you can play a couple of players in behind or a couple of players wide. In the modern game you can't just cover one specific position. A player needs to know a lot of positions and have a lot of tactical skills. Football today is a high-quality chess game, in particular when you play in a huge competition like the Champions League or the World Cup. A modern player needs to understand tactical changes during the game. That requires a lot more intelligence from the players.

Observing... Shevchenko watches on from the sideline

Is that tactical flexibility the biggest change in the game since your own playing days?
No, the evolution is not just about technique. You have to work a lot with your mind. The demands are different. Intelligence on the pitch has become a lot more important today. Of course, technique and physicality are still key, but intelligence – understanding and reading situations, understanding different positions, the different tactical phases of the game when a coach changes something – is crucial.

You have used a lot of different formations...
When I ask for it during the game we can switch to a couple of formations, but we have never broken the system of the game. That's the main thing. It is very important that the players understand the structure of the game and how it develops. We can rotate in the midfield and in attack. I notice that my players, with the mindsets they have, can easily switch positions during the game. We are growing as a team. We are getting better because we are starting to understand each other, the positions and the rotation better.

What are Oleksandr Zinchenko's qualities and what does he bring to Ukraine?
His main qualities are his technical skills and his mind. Zinchenko can play in different positions, and because of his intelligence he will be switching positions during the games, playing for City and even for us, probably more for us. We can use him in different positions. He can do that very quickly. He adapts immediately to that position and understands what he has to do at that specific moment.

Will Ukraine qualify for the Euro 2020 finals?
That is our main goal: to qualify, playing attractive matches with the fans in Ukraine waiting for us.

Interview by Samindra Kunti

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PREMIER PLAYER

ENGLAND CRUISING TO THE FINALS

Four straight victories have put England on the brink of next summer's finals, where they will be de facto hosts as the Final and both semi-finals are among seven games being staged at Wembley.

Having put his faith in youth, manager Gareth Southgate continued that trend in September's games against Bulgaria and Kosovo, with midfielders Mason Mount of Chelsea and Leicester City's James Maddison fast-tracked from the under-21s to the senior squad.

Southgate can also call upon a fearless attacking trio in Jadon Sancho, Raheem Sterling and captain Harry Kane, with England currently the top scorers across the qualifiers, with 19 goals in their four games. But while the youthful exuberance has benefitted the team's attacking ambitions, in defence the inexperience is a genuine concern.

England were given an early shock by Kosovo, who took the lead after 34 seconds through Valon Berisha before Southgate's side triumphed 5-3.

"So many of our players are still on a handful of caps, so many of them are improving rapidly," acknowledged the England boss. "The great thing is we've got genuine competition for places."

Second spot in the group is a straight fight between Czech Republic and Kosovo, who meet in Plzen in November.

Jaroslav Silhavy took over as Czech coach in 2018 and, despite a cautious tactical approach, he has introduced young blood such as winger Lukas Masopust, key assist provider Jakub Jankto and central midfielder Alex Kral.

The form of leading striker Patrik Schick is, however, a concern. The Czechs remains heavily reliant upon his goals, but the former Sampdoria starlet has barely featured this season for RB Leipzig, where he is on loan from Roma.

Kosovo have been a revelation under veteran Swiss coach Bernard Challandes, who has allied their infectious new-nation enthusiasm to attack-minded tactics and put them in contention.

The Kosovans were unbeaten in 15 games before the defeat against England, although June's 3-2 victory over Bulgaria in Sofia was their first win in a qualifier.

Recent results – notably the thrilling 2-1 win in Pristina against Czech Republic – were achieved without Milot Rashica, who is arguably their best player, and fellow wide man Arber Zeneli. Against England, they were missing midfielders Hekuran Kryeziu and Herolind Shala, as well as left-back Benjamin Kololli. But others have stepped up, notably striker Vedat Muriqi, playmaker Bersant Celina, midfielder Berisha and goalkeeper Arijanet Muric.

Kosovo have the safety net of a place in March's play-offs, having won League D in the Nations League, and have to play England in Pristina after that showdown with Czech Republic.

Bulgaria and Montenegro have both had hugely disappointing campaigns.

Krasimir Balakov succeeded Petar Hubchev after Bulgaria's first two qualifiers, while Montenegro's campaign was overshadowed by the sacking of Serbian coach Ljubisa Tumbakovic for refusing to take charge of the side's game against Kosovo in June. His replacement, Bosnian coach Faruk Hadzibegic, has yet to see any upturn in form.

> "So many of our players are still on a handful of caps, so many of them are improving rapidly. The great thing is we've got genuine competition for places"
> England manager Gareth Southgate

Fearless...Raheem Sterling (centre) scores England's first goal against Kosovo

Struggling...Bulgaria (in white) and Montenegro

STAR MAN

RAHEEM STERLING
England

The Manchester City front runner is not only England's most-improved player, the 24-year-old is arguably more vital to the plans of manager Gareth Southgate than skipper and centre-forward Harry Kane.

When Sterling is fit and firing, he is a regular on the scoresheet, netting six times so far in qualification and eight in nine competitive starts since the end of the last World Cup. Add in the scoring

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ENGLAND	4	4	0	0	19	4	12
CZECH REP	5	3	0	2	9	8	9
KOSOVO	5	2	2	1	10	10	8
MONTENEGRO	5	0	2	3	3	13	2
BULGARIA	5	0	2	3	5	11	2

22.03.19	Bulgaria-Montenegro	1-1
22.03.19	England-Czech Rep	5-0
25.03.19	Montenegro-England	1-5
25.03.19	Kosovo-Bulgaria	1-1
07.06.19	Montenegro-Kosovo	1-1
07.06.19	Czech Rep-Bulgaria	2-1
10.06.19	Czech Rep-Montenegro	3-0
10.06.19	Bulgaria-Kosovo	2-3
07.09.19	Kosovo-Czech Rep	2-1
07.09.19	England-Bulgaria	4-0
10.09.19	Montenegro-Czech Rep	0-3
10.09.19	England-Kosovo	5-3
11.10.19	Montenegro-Bulgaria	
11.10.19	Czech Rep-England	
14.10.19	Kosovo-Montenegro	
14.10.19	Bulgaria-England	
14.11.19	England-Montenegro	
14.11.19	Czech Rep-Kosovo	
17.11.19	Kosovo-England	
17.11.19	Bulgaria-Czech Rep	

Appreciated... Raheem Sterling

opportunities he carves out for others and you can see he adds an extra layer of fluidity to his side's attacking play.

Take his stunning performance in England's 5-3 win over Kosovo when he effectively ran the show, nodding in the equaliser for 1-1, providing a hat-trick of assists and also hitting a post.

"Raheem's last two performances [in the victories over Kosovo and Bulgaria] have been of the highest level," says Southgate. "I think he's been almost unstoppable – his awareness of where defenders are, his ability to ride challenges, his vision and desire to get in on goal, and unselfish work as well."

It is remarkable how England fans have gone full circle in their feelings towards Sterling. Not so long ago he was a love-to-hate figure in the national team, pilloried for scoring just twice in his first 45 appearances for the country.

But two goals last year in a 3-2 victory over Spain in the UEFA Nations League did much to break the ice, as did his anti-racism postings on social media. No longer the pantomime villain, these days he is just enthusiastically appreciated.

Revelation

ARIJANET MURIC
Kosovo

It says much for the towering 20-year-old keeper's ability that Kosovo have only lost one of their last seven games.

Born and brought up by Albanian parents in the Zurich region of Switzerland, he also possesses Kosovan and Montenegrin passports through family ties. He used to play for Montenegro's under-21s, but opted a year ago to rally to the Kosovo flag and made his full international debut in a UEFA Nations League game against Azerbaijan in November 2018.

He came through the youth ranks of Swiss outfits YF Juventus, Zurich and Grasshoppers, showing such promise that Premier League heavyweights Manchester City signed him in July 2017.

Switch...Muric

He made several first-team appearances in the League Cup for City last season, memorably being the penalty-saving hero of a quarter-final shoot-out victory over Leicester City.

Currently on a season-long loan at second-tier Nottingham Forest, he was twice sent off while playing for Montenegro's under-21s, for handling the ball outside the penalty area and headbutting an opponent.

UNBEATEN UKRAINE KEEP IT TIGHT

With Europe's joint-tightest defence – like Belgium, they have conceded just one goal so far – Ukraine are unbeaten in five games and have only failed to score once: in their opening game when they held European champions Portugal to a goalless draw.

Four straight victories followed, including a 5-0 thrashing of Serbia in June, a result which prompted the sacking of their opponent's coach, Mladen Krstajic.

Andriy Shevchenko's side are a team in transition, with Anatoliy Tymoshchuk, Vyacheslav Shevchuk and Oleh Husyev being replaced by new stars Oleksandr Zinchenko, Mykola Matviyenko and Ruslan Malinovskyi. However, only keeper Andriy Lunin has so far made the step up from last year's Under-20 World Cup-winning side.

There has been controversy over the naturalisation of Brazilian-born players Marlos and Junior Moraes, with Portugal and Luxembourg protesting that Moraes had not spent five continuous years in Ukraine. But the protests were dismissed by UEFA and Ukraine remain on course for next summer's finals despite the problems that have hit their domestic game, where financial troubles have forced some clubs out of business and civil war pushed Shakhtar out of Donetsk.

Portugal can call upon some exciting new talent in Bernardo Silva (who missed Euro 2016 through injury), Joao Felix, Goncalo Guedes, Bruno Fernandes, Joao Cancelo and Ruben Dias. But Cristiano Ronaldo remains their talisman, with his four goals in a 5-1 thrashing of Lithuania in September taking him to 93 – just 16 behind Ali Daei's world record.

The key result was September's 4-2 win in Serbia, which got Portugal's campaign back on track after two opening draws with Ukraine and Serbia.

Serbia's campaign was derailed by the 5-0 humiliation in Ukraine, their heaviest defeat as an independent nation. Krstajic, whose ambitious 3-5-2 formation backfired spectacularly, may have departed but many of the same concerns remain under Ljubisa Tumbakovic, who left Montenegro in controversial circumstances in June after refusing to take charge of their Group A meeting with Kosovo.

While the attacking flair of Dusan Tadic and goals of Aleksandr Mitrovic offer hope, there have been too many Serbian defensive and midfield mistakes for comfort.

"We lost to a majestic team full of world-class players," said Tumbakovic after the Portugal defeat in Belgrade. "As ever in Serbian football, we were vulnerable defensively and that undermines every other department."

Serbia face Luxembourg and Lithuania before a final-day meeting with Ukraine, by which time their only route into the finals is likely to be via the play-offs, having won their Nations League Division C group last summer.

Luxembourg topped the group after the first round of games after beating Lithuania, who then drew the return for their only point so far.

> "We lost to a majestic team full of world-class players"
> **Serbia boss Ljubisa Tumbakovic on Portugal**

Outclassed...Serbia after losing to Portugal

On top...Ukraine defender Sergii Kryvtsov beats William Carvalho of Portugal

STAR MAN

MYKOLA MATVIYENKO
Ukraine

If the Ukraine rearguard has proved almost impenetrable in qualifying, a large slice of the celebratory cake belongs to the 23-year-old Shakhtar Donetsk centre-back.

Watchful, tenacious, good on the ball and cool under pressure, he has been a rock for his national side of late and was

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UKRAINE	5	4	1	0	11	1	13
PORTUGAL	4	2	2	0	10	4	8
SERBIA	5	2	1	2	10	12	7
LUXEMBOURG	5	1	1	3	5	8	4
LITHUANIA	5	0	1	4	4	15	1

22.03.19	**Portugal-Ukraine**	0-0
22.03.19	**Luxembourg-Lithuania**	2-1
25.03.19	**Portugal-Serbia**	1-1
25.03.19	**Luxembourg-Ukraine**	1-2
07.06.19	**Ukraine-Serbia**	5-0
07.06.19	**Lithuania-Luxembourg**	1-1
10.06.19	**Ukraine-Luxembourg**	1-0
10.06.19	**Serbia-Lithuania**	4-1
07.09.19	**Lithuania-Ukraine**	0-3
07.09.19	**Serbia-Portugal**	2-4
10.09.19	**Luxembourg-Serbia**	1-3
10.09.19	**Lithuania-Portugal**	1-5
11.10.19	**Ukraine-Lithuania**	
11.10.19	**Portugal-Luxembourg**	
14.10.19	**Ukraine-Portugal**	
14.10.19	**Lithuania-Serbia**	
14.11.19	**Serbia-Luxembourg**	
14.11.19	**Portugal-Lithuania**	
17.11.19	**Serbia-Ukraine**	
17.11.19	**Luxembourg-Portugal**	

Revelation

RUBEN DIAS
Portugal

Over the last year or so the obdurate Benfica stopper has deservedly become an automatic first choice for the *Selecao*, thus breaking up the well-established central defensive partnership of Jose Fonte and Pepe.

The 22-year-old is just what national coach Fernando Santos needed to fortify his back line, bringing poise, power, speed over the ground and vocal authority to the mix.

Dias clearly loves to be the commander and many see him as a future international captain.

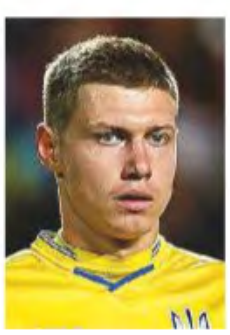
"He's calm, he's very self-confident, he's a leader," said former Benfica central defender Ricardo Rocha in an interview with the *O Jogo* sports daily.

Taking charge is something which comes naturally to Dias and he has captained both the Portuguese under-19s and under-20s.

A non-playing member of Portugal's squad for the 2018 World Cup in Russia, he was a collector's item in that tournament, surprisingly being the only Benfica player in the group – which is remarkable for the country's biggest, most famous club.

Reported to be on the radar of Manchester City.

Commander...Dias



Test...Matviyenko

especially impressive when they began the qualification process by holding the reigning champions, Portugal, to a goalless draw in Lisbon.

At the end of the game, Ukraine coach Andriy Shevchenko singled out the defender for praise and he certainly deserved it for an outstanding night's work, never budging or flinching as such talents as Cristiano Ronaldo and Andre Silva moved menacingly into his zone.

It was a major test that Matviyenko passed with flying colours.

His development into a promising international stopper has come as something of a surprise. He has played at left-back for much of his career and as recently as last season was a utility man for Shakhtar, deployed at right-back, left-back and in the heart of the defence.

He won his first cap as a left-back in a World Cup qualifier against Croatia in March 2017 and less than a year ago had never played centre-back for Ukraine.

GROUP C

GERMANY STRUGGLE WITH THE TRANSITION

Germany are top of the group despite being outplayed by Holland in Hamburg. Joachim Low's side took an early lead through Serge Gnabry, but defensive tactics allowed the visitors back into a game which they eventually won 4-2.

Low's reshaping of his team – and in particular the dropping of centre-backs Mats Hummels and Jerome Boateng, along with attacking stalwart Thomas Muller – has inevitably led to teething troubles. A new-look defence featuring Jonathan Tah, Niklas Sule and Nico Schulz was wobbly against the Dutch, while Low continues to favour Manuel Neuer as his first-choice goalkeeper despite's Marc-Andre Ter Stegen's outstanding form for Barcelona.

> "A new cycle is beginning with the Euro qualifications"
> Germany boss Joachim Low

Three days after Germany's loss to Holland, Northern Ireland threatened an upset in Belfast until a wonderful volley from defender Marcel Halstenberg and another Gnabry strike, late into injury time, spared Low's blushes.

"In the national team, you can't just change everything from one day to the next," said Low. "I wasn't sure after the World Cup, because I knew that precisely these three players [Hummels, Boateng and Muller] could still be world-class and they can still be that today.

"Then we had the Nations League, and in a group with France and Holland we needed the experienced players, but the chance to try something new came along in this qualifying group.

"We have started a transition. A new cycle is beginning with the Euro qualifications, but I deliberately wanted to wait out the preparations and see how the players came back from the winter break.

"Before the qualifications, we wanted to go through and decide which players with prospects we'd rely on.

"We knew the others are still good, even very good, but now it's time for change and already we are seeing the positive impact."

Northern Ireland, still with most of the stalwarts of their Euro 2016 squad, continue to defy the odds under Michael O'Neill. They won their first four matches before the loss to Germany at Windsor Park but face a difficult run-in with home-and-away games against Holland and then Germany in Frankfurt as their final match.

Despite the 4-2 win in Germany and reaching the Euro Nations League Final in June, Holland find themselves in third place, albeit with a game in hand on both Germany and Northern Ireland.

Ronald Koeman has been praised for the job he has done since succeeding Dick Advocaat in February 2018, with the emergence of so many young stars at Ajax having benefitted the national side. Frenkie De Jong and Matthijs De Ligt, who have since moved to Barcelona and Juventus respectively, are in fine form, while Koeman has coaxed the best from Georginio Wijnaldum and Memphis Depay. He has also benefited from the emergence of Virgil Van Dijk as a leader.

Belarus fired coach Igor Kriushenko after they lost their opening four matches. They won their first game under his replacement, former under-21 boss Mikhail Markhel, against Estonia.

Martin Reim resigned as coach of pointless Estonia in the aftermath of an 8-0 drubbing by Germany in June.

Praise...Holland coach Ronald Koeman (centre)

STAR MAN

SERGE GNABRY
Germany

Germany coach Joachim Low currently needs as many trusted lieutenants as possible and he certainly believes in the versatile young Bayern Munich forward – so much so that "Jogi" even went as far as to recently insist that the 24-year-old was a guaranteed starter.

"Gnabry always is going to be in my line-up," says Low. "Serge plays with tempo, he carries a big goal-threat

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GERMANY	5	4	0	1	17	6	12
N IRELAND	5	4	0	1	7	4	12
HOLLAND	4	3	0	1	14	5	9
BELARUS	5	1	0	4	3	10	3
ESTONIA	5	0	0	5	2	18	0

21.03.19	**N Ireland-Estonia**	2-0
21.03.19	**Holland-Belarus**	4-0
24.03.19	**N Ireland-Belarus**	2-1
24.03.19	**Holland-Germany**	2-3
08.06.19	**Estonia-N Ireland**	1-2
08.06.19	**Belarus-Germany**	0-2
11.06.19	**Germany-Estonia**	8-0
11.06.19	**Belarus-N Ireland**	0-1
06.09.19	**Estonia-Belarus**	1-2
06.09.19	**Germany-Holland**	2-4
09.09.19	**N Ireland-Germany**	0-2
09.09.19	**Estonia-Holland**	0-4
10.10.19	**Belarus-Estonia**	
10.10.19	**Holland-N Ireland**	
13.10.19	**Belarus-Holland**	
13.10.19	**Estonia-Germany**	
16.11.19	**N Ireland-Holland**	
16.11.19	**Germany-Belarus**	
19.11.19	**Holland-Estonia**	
19.11.19	**Germany-N Ireland**	

Pressure...Germany's Julian Brandt in action against Northern Ireland

Starter...Gnabry

and can play in any number of positions. He is very hard to control."

Low does not make a habit of issuing public non-exclusion orders as it smacks of the closed shop he wants to avoid at all costs. But he can be excused for being so supportive of Gnabry. In 10 games for Germany, the 24-year-old has scored an incredible nine goals and he has been absolutely insatiable in qualifying, boasting five in five.

"Serge is really doing a great job," adds Low. "He's playing at an extremely high standard. He's been outstanding as a goalscorer for us, but that's not the only good thing he does. He is superb at keeping the ball in the attacking third and combines well with team-mates. His movement is very good, very clever. He is always looking for the ball in the space in front of the opposition defence. As a focal point, he is tremendously effective."

Despite operating as a winger for Bayern, Gnabry is deployed either as a line-leader, a second striker or out wide for Germany. Money can't buy such high-class adaptability and "keep 'em guessing" is the Low mantra.

Revelation

DONYELL MALEN
Holland

Holland's 4-2 victory in Germany was very much a red-letter day for the 20-year-old *Oranje* striker, who not only won his first cap – as a substitute – but also turned out to be a game-changer in Hamburg, scoring his side's third goal with a nerveless side-footed finish.

The PSV striker was the first Dutchman to score on his international debut for seven years, matching the feat of Feyenoord's Ruben Schaken, who was on target in a win over Andorra in 2012.

"I'm a bit speechless," said Malen after the Germany game. "This is a dream for every young boy and now that it's come true, I'm so proud and happy. Gini [Wijnaldum] set me up perfectly."

Nerveless...Malen

Malen's career is a strange mixture of the heady and the twist in the tale. As a schoolboy he was a star turn at the Ajax academy before leaving at 16 to join Arsenal, where he showed a great deal of promise, only to unexpectedly sign for PSV in the summer of 2017.

Quick, robust and able to play on either wing, he has been in outstanding form for PSV this term, notably netting all five goals in his side's 5-0 hammering of Vitesse.

IRISH GRINDING OUT THE RESULTS

With just six goals in five games, the Republic of Ireland are the lowest-scoring group leaders so far. But despite their limitations, Mick McCarthy's side are well placed to make it to next summer's finals.

They are making a habit of late equalisers, with David McGoldrick's header salvaging a point in a 1-1 draw with Switzerland in Dublin to maintain their unbeaten record. Another late header, from defender Shane Duffy, had previously earned a draw away to Denmark in June.

The Republic's qualifying campaign opened with laboured 1-0 wins in Gibraltar and at home to Georgia, and McCarthy's men still have to travel to Switzerland and host Denmark, but qualification from one of the tightest groups is in their hands.

They are in a three-way battle with the Swiss and the Danes, and all three games between the trio have ended in draws so far.

"We're not the best team in the group but I'll tell you what, you're going to have to put us down before we give up, and that's a lovely trait to have," McCarthy said after September's draw with Switzerland.

The Swiss looked to have got off to a flying start. After opening their campaign with a 2-0 win in Georgia, they returned home to face Denmark in Basle and were 3-0 up with just 15 minutes left to play thanks to goals from Remo Freuler, Granit Xhaka and Breel Embolo. But in a remarkable comeback, Denmark took advantage of slack defending to hit back through Mathias Jorgensen (86 minutes) and Christian Gytkjaer (88 minutes) before, three minutes into injury time, Henrik Dalsgaard grabbed a sensational equaliser.

"We were careless in those last few moments, but we're pleased with how we played for 80 minutes," said Switzerland coach Vladimir Petkovic, who faced criticism for withdrawing Xhaka with 10 minutes remaining.

Mistake...Granit Xhaka was taken off against Denmark

The Swiss faced a further setback when drawing with the Irish in Dublin but they bounced back with a 4-0 thumping of Gibraltar. Petkovic's side have a game in hand over their rivals, as well as knowing they have a play-off place thanks to their success in last summer's Nations League.

After the draws against Switzerland and Ireland, Denmark racked up the goals with wins over Georgia (5-1) and Gibraltar (6-0). But they missed the chance to pull level with group leaders Ireland after a goalless draw with a tenacious Georgia side in Tbilisi in which Martin Braithwaite was twice denied by Georgian keeper Giorgi Loria and substitute Christian Gytkjaer, who has been Denmark's top scorer with Christian Eriksen in 2019, hit the bar.

Gibraltar are one of two teams, along with Andorra, who have failed to score in any of their qualifying matches.

> "We're not the best team in the group but...you're going to have to put us down before we give up"
> Republic of Ireland manager Mick McCarthy

Drama...Republic of Ireland celebrate their late equaliser against Switzerland in Dublin

STAR MAN

JAMES McCLEAN
Republic of Ireland

An incident during the 1-1 draw with Switzerland in September provided a perfect illustration of just what McClean brings to the table for the men in green.

With the Swiss 1-0 up and only a handful of minutes left, Ireland's Euro 2020 hopes were hanging by the slimmest of threads. But enter the Stoke City winger cum street fighter. Busting a

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
REP IRELAND	5	3	2	0	6	2	11
DENMARK	5	2	3	0	15	5	9
SWITZERLAND	4	2	2	0	10	4	8
GEORGIA	5	1	1	3	4	8	4
GIBRALTAR	5	0	0	5	0	16	0

23.03.19	Georgia-Switzerland	0-2
23.03.19	Gibraltar-Rep Ireland	0-1
26.03.19	Switzerland-Denmark	3-3
26.03.19	Rep Ireland-Georgia	1-0
07.06.19	Georgia-Gibraltar	3-0
07.06.19	Denmark-Rep Ireland	1-1
10.06.19	Rep Ireland-Gibraltar	2-0
10.06.19	Denmark-Georgia	5-1
05.09.19	Rep Ireland-Switzerland	1-1
05.09.19	Gibraltar-Denmark	0-6
08.09.19	Switzerland-Gibraltar	4-0
08.09.19	Georgia-Denmark	0-0
12.10.19	Georgia-Rep Ireland	
12.10.19	Denmark-Switzerland	
15.10.19	Switzerland-Rep Ireland	
15.10.19	Gibraltar-Georgia	
15.11.19	Switzerland-Georgia	
15.11.19	Denmark-Gibraltar	
18.11.19	Rep Ireland-Denmark	
18.11.19	Gibraltar-Switzerland	

Endeavour...McClean

gut to spark a fightback, he chased down Swiss full-back Kevin Mbabu, dispossessed him and drove down the left flank. A few seconds later, Ireland were level as his deflected cross was headed home by David McGoldrick.

When it comes to assessing the on-field value of the Derry-born 30-year-old, Ireland supporters are divided.

Naysayers see him as technically flawed, a route-one merchant who regularly takes the wrong option and whose final ball is often of the hit-and-hope variety.

For his fan club, though, he is an individual to cherish. Full of endeavour from first moment to last, he is the emotional leader of the side.

Needless to say, Ireland boss Mick McCarthy – in his previous life a no-frills stopper himself – is firmly in the pro-McClean camp. "He was amazing," purred McCarthy after the Switzerland game. "The shift he put in. That guy [Mbabu] was quick enough, so for James to run back and nick it off him was incredible."

Revelation

KEVIN MBABU
Switzerland

The 24-year-old right-back says he does not feel comfortable in the glare of the media spotlight. But it looks as though, for him, it will be impossible to avoid.

Few full-backs are as pacy and explosive as him.

Born in the Geneva region to a Congolese mother and French father he admits to being a walking, talking contradiction, revealing: "I've two faces: an aggressive temperament on the pitch and a very relaxed character off it, even to the point of not caring about anything."

Having made his senior debut for Switzerland in a 6-0 win over Iceland in September 2018, he has been cutting the figure of a class act for the last couple of years, helping Young Boys win back-to-back domestic league titles, showing up well in the Champions League and being named the Swiss League's Player of the Year for 2018.

Now playing in the Bundesliga, having joined Wolfsburg in the summer, he still has regrets about the disappointing three-and-a-half years he spent in England with Newcastle United at the dawn of his pro career, admitting to not getting enough sleep at that time and eating badly.

Contradiction ...Mbabu

CROATIA SEEKING NEW FACES

World Cup runners-up in 2018, Croatia made a stuttering start to their Euro campaign, edging past Azerbaijan 2-1 in their opening game and then going down in Hungary by the same scoreline. Wins over Wales and Slovakia restored some belief before they were pegged back with a 1-1 draw away to Azerbaijan.

The emphatic 4-0 win over Slovakia in Trnava may well prove to be the key result for Zlatko Dalic's side. Going into the game Croatia were missing several key players, with Tim Jedvaj and Mateo Kovacic injured, and Ivan Rakitic dealing with uncertainty over his club future. Dejan Lovren even commented before the game that squad morale was not what it had been in Russia – which only added to the sense of uncertainty.

But Marcelo Brozovic stepped up to the mark as Dalic called in younger replacements, including Dinamo Zagreb striker Bruno Petkovic, Copenhagen defender Karlo Bartolec and CSKA Moscow midfielder Nikola Vlasic.

Dalic was able to declare afterwards: "It was one of our best games during my time as coach."

He also acknowledges that the qualifying campaign has offered a chance to re-energise the squad. "If we qualify for the Euros, then rejuvenating the national team will make sense," says Dalic. "But one thing is clear: they need new aces – hungry, ambitious young men. I said that right after Russia. Bartolec, Petkovic, Vlasic and some others are increasingly important to us. In Petkovic, we have the type of striker we didn't have. I've said it could bring us a lot."

> "If we qualify for the Euros then rejuvenating the national team will make sense"
>
> **Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic**

Slovakia were stunned by their loss to Croatia as they had been punching above their weight under Czech coach Pavel Hapal, who took charge when Jan Kozak quit in October last year. They bounced back a few days later by beating Hungary 2-1 in Budapest with goals from Robert Mak and Robert Bozenik.

Winner...Hungary's Mate Patkai celebrates scoring the only goal against Wales

Hungary have experienced mixed results under Italian coach Marco Rossi, losing the opener at home to Slovakia but then beating Croatia in Budapest. Victories over Azerbaijan and Wales followed in June, but September's home defeat by Slovakia was a major setback.

Wales remain just about in contention and could yet make the play-offs with a game in hand on the three teams above them. But does manager Ryan Giggs know his best team?

The former Manchester United star has used 43 different players in his 15 games in charge. The emergence of exciting young winger Dan James has added to his selection options, and the likely return of the injured Aaron Ramsey will be a boost ahead of the forthcoming games against Slovakia and Croatia.

Azerbaijan, coached by former Croatia international Nikola Jurcevic, picked up their first point with a plucky draw at home to Croatia in September when they equalised through Tamkin Khalilzade's stunning solo goal.

STAR MAN

MARCELO BROZOVIC
Croatia

After many years of flitting here, there and everywhere in midfield, "Brozo" is at long last benefitting from a fixed point of reference as a deep-lying regulator for Croatia and Internazionale.

Up until the spring of 2018, the Zagreb native was essentially known as a gifted but erratic operative, hitting the heights one day and fading from view the next. That, however, is yesterday's news. Over

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CROATIA	5	3	1	1	10	5	10
SLOVAKIA	5	3	0	2	9	7	9
HUNGARY	5	3	0	2	7	6	9
WALES	4	2	0	2	4	4	6
AZERBAIJAN	5	0	1	4	5	13	1

21.03.19	Slovakia-Hungary	2-0
21.03.19	Croatia-Azerbaijan	2-1
24.03.19	Wales-Slovakia	1-0
24.03.19	Hungary-Croatia	2-1
08.06.19	Croatia-Wales	2-1
08.06.19	Azerbaijan-Hungary	1-3
11.06.19	Azerbaijan-Slovakia	1-5
11.06.19	Hungary-Wales	1-0
06.09.19	Wales-Azerbaijan	2-1
06.09.19	Slovakia-Croatia	0-4
09.09.19	Azerbaijan-Croatia	1-1
09.09.19	Hungary-Slovakia	1-2
10.10.19	Slovakia-Wales	
10.10.19	Croatia-Hungary	
13.10.19	Hungary-Azerbaijan	
13.10.19	Wales-Croatia	
16.11.19	Azerbaijan-Wales	
16.11.19	Croatia-Slovakia	
19.11.19	Wales-Hungary	
19.11.19	Slovakia-Azerbaijan	

Result...Croatia's Karlo Bartolec (left) beats Slovakia's Lukas Haraslin

Revelation

DOMINIK SZOBOSZLAI

Hungary

The Magyars are well-equipped at either end of the age spectrum, from the vast experience of veteran winger and skipper Balazs Dzsudzsak to teenage midfielder Szoboszlai, who is just starting to make a name for himself on the international stage and for Austria's Red Bull Salzburg.

Since making his first start for Hungary, in the 2-1 home win over Croatia in March, the 18-year-old has grown steadily in influence and he opened his national-team scoring account, curling in an unstoppable free kick in a 2-1 loss at home to Slovakia in September.

Elegant... Szoboszlai

Upright, elegant, cultured on the ball and able to play in a variety of attacking midfield roles, he joined Salzburg from Videoton in the spring of 2017. He is reported to be on the watch-list of a string of big European clubs but says he only recently realised that he must apply himself more, and that "talent alone is not enough".

Some of his best displays to date have been in European competition: a Europa League tie against Napoli last spring and Salzburg's 6-2 hammering of Genk in this term's Champions League, a game in which he scored his side's fourth.

Adjustment...Brozovic

the last 18 months he has gone from strength to strength, a result not only of greater maturity but also positional certainty. Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic now deploys the 26-year-old solely in a holding role and it did not take long before Inter boss Luciano Spalletti took the hint and made the same adjustment.

A former Dinamo Zagreb starlet, Brozovic was at his influential best in Croatia's 4-0 victory in Slovakia, twice providing assists, rattling the crossbar with a rasping left-footed drive and catching the eye with his confidence on the ball and tempo-setting guile. In the absence of injured midfield pair Ivan Rakitic and Mateo Kovacic, the Croats might have been found wanting – but not with Brozovic in such fine form.

Dinamo Zagreb coach Nenad Bjelica claims to be at a loss as to why Brozovic seems to attract so little acclamation in the media. "Not much is said or written about him," Bjelica recently declared to Croat TV station Nova."For me he is among the top three midfielders in the world. I have to point out the great things he's doing."

SPAIN ON COURSE DESPITE TRAGEDY

Spain, with six wins out of six, are on course to qualify comfortably under new boss Robert Moreno, the former assistant to Luis Enrique who stepped down in March to spend time with his terminally-ill daughter, Xana.

Moreno took charge on a permanent basis in September after Luis Enrique decided not to return to the role following the death of the nine-year-old from a rare bone cancer.

"I consider Luis a friend and this friendship goes ahead of everything else," says Moreno. "If he wants to return one day I will be delighted to step aside and work with him."

The victory over the Faroes in Gijon came a few days after a key 2-1 win in Romania. Dani Ceballos' form on loan at Arsenal had secured a place in the starting line-up in Bucharest, along with centre-back Diego Llorente, who was sent off for taking down Romania's George Puscas when clear on goal.

Diego Costa was dropped by Moreno, with Paco Alcacer preferred as first-choice striker and 33-year-old Jesus Navas deployed at right-back.

Qualification will be confirmed if Spain avoid defeat away to Norway or Sweden in October's matches, leaving Sweden, Romania and Norway in a three-way battle for second place.

The Swedes began well with wins over Romania and Malta, followed by a crazy 3-3 draw with Norway in Oslo, when substitute Ola Kamara scored a 97th-minute equaliser. Norway had gone 2-0 up with 20 minutes remaining, only for the Swedes to score twice and then grab what looked to be a 91st-minute winner through Robin Quaison.

There was further disappointment in the return match in September when Sweden faced former coach Lars Lagerbeck, now in charge of Norway. Midfielder Emil Forsberg's equaliser salvaged a point in a 1-1 draw, but defender Victor Lindelof apologised for the Swedish performance afterwards, saying: "I was awful in this game. Everyone should have done better. We should be able to play through their press. This might be the worst national-team performance I've been involved in."

Sweden called upon new attacking faces in the form of Alexander Isak and Quaison, who moved ahead of Marcus Berg in the pecking order.

Romania opened with a defeat to Sweden but an injury-time equaliser from Claudiu Keseru secured a valuable 2-2 draw with Norway.

Coach Cosmin Contra has blooded a number of promising youngsters, notably Puscas, Razvan Maran and Ianis Hagi. Qualification is in their hands, with home games against Norway and Sweden before a final game in Spain.

Norway boss Lagerbeck has also introduced youth in the form of a recall for former Real Madrid starlet Martin Odegaard and a debut for Salzburg's free-scoring striker Erling Haland. Odegaard scored his first international goal in the 2-2 draw with Romania while Haland was given a debut against Malta.

> "I was awful in this game. Everyone should have done better...this might be the worst national-team performance I've been involved in"
>
> Sweden's Victor Lindelof after the 1-1 draw with Norway

Crazy...Norway's Ola Kamara (centre) makes it 3-3 in the game against Sweden

In control...Spain's Mikel Oyarzabal (no12) takes charge against Faroe Islands

STAR MAN

KEPA ARRIZABALAGA
Spain

New Spain boss Robert Moreno made a big call when replacing keeper David De Gea as the team's first choice.

Whereas De Gea had a poor World Cup in Russia and has committed many howlers between the Manchester United posts, 24-year-old Arrizabalaga – who became the world's most expensive No1 when leaving Athletic Bilbao for Chelsea in a £71.5million deal at the

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SPAIN	6	6	0	0	17	3	18
SWEDEN	6	3	2	1	13	8	11
ROMANIA	6	3	1	2	13	7	10
NORWAY	6	2	3	1	11	8	9
MALTA	6	1	0	5	2	13	3
FAROE IS	6	0	0	6	3	20	0

23.03.19	Sweden-Romania	2-1
23.03.19	Malta-Faroe Is	2-1
23.03.19	Spain-Norway	2-1
26.03.19	Romania-Faroe Is	4-1
26.03.19	Norway-Sweden	3-3
26.03.19	Malta-Spain	0-2
07.06.19	Sweden-Malta	3-0
07.06.19	Norway-Romania	2-2
07.06.19	Faroe Is-Spain	1-4
10.06.19	Spain-Sweden	3-0
10.06.19	Malta-Romania	0-4
10.06.19	Faroe Is-Norway	0-2
05.09.19	Romania-Spain	1-2
05.09.19	Norway-Malta	2-0
05.09.19	Faroe Is-Sweden	0-4
08.09.19	Romania-Malta	1-0
08.09.19	Sweden-Norway	1-1
08.09.19	Spain-Faroe Is	4-0
12.10.19	Faroe Is-Romania	
12.10.19	Norway-Spain	
12.10.19	Malta-Sweden	
15.10.19	Sweden-Spain	
15.10.19	Romania-Norway	
15.10.19	Faroe Is-Malta	
15.11.19	Norway-Faroe Is	
15.11.19	Spain-Malta	
15.11.19	Romania-Sweden	
18.11.19	Sweden-Faroe Is	
18.11.19	Spain-Romania	
18.11.19	Malta-Norway	

Revelation

GEORGE PUSCAS

Romania

An ever-present as the *Tricolorii* strive to book their place in the Euro 2020 finals stage, the 23-year-old striker is the poster boy for a rejuvenated Romania.

No fewer than six players from the under-21 squad that reached the last four of this summer's European Championship are now in the senior group. And, thus far, Puscas has been the pick of the group, leading the line well and scoring four times in Group F.

In many ways he is the archetypal old-school centre-forward: tall, strong, excellent in the air and effective in his hold-up play. However, he does have other strings to his bow, not least his mobility, clever movement and incisive runs with the ball at his feet.

Mobile...Puscas

His four goals at the Euro Under-21s earned him the Silver Boot as second-top marksman at the tournament and he is Romania's best-ever finisher at that level with 16 goals in all.

Once with Internazionale, who subsequently sent him on loan to four other Italian sides, he now plays in the English second tier after securing a permanent move to Reading.

Secure...Arrizabalaga

start of last season – has looked far more secure, settling in well in the Premier League and playing an instrumental role in Chelsea's achievements of finishing third in the English top flight and winning the Europa League.

A winner in each of his seven starts for *La Roja*, Arrizabalaga was the man of the match in Spain's 2-1 victory in Romania, pulling off a remarkable late save to keep out a point-blank George Puscas header. Reduced to 10 men after Diego Llorente was sent off with 10 minutes left, Spain would have cracked without the keeper's amazing block with his legs.

Especially renowned for his sharp reactions, dominating presence, comfort on the ball and indulging in an obsessive training regime, Arrizabalaga is just the latest in a long line of Basque goalkeepers who have featured for the national side, including Jose Angel Iribar (1964-76), Luis Miguel Arconada (1978-85) and Andoni Zubizarreta (1985-98).

The big question now is will he, like his predecessors, enjoy a decade or more with the national team?

GROUP G

POLES ON COURSE AS BRZECZEK FINDS HIS FEET

Poland made a winning start to their campaign, bagging four straight victories – over Austria, Latvia, North Macedonia and Israel – without conceding a goal before a series of setbacks in September, when they lost in Slovenia and were held 0-0 in Warsaw by Austria.

New Poland coach Jerzy Brzeczek had been slow to find his feet after losing Nations League games to Portugal and Italy last year. The 1-0 victory in Vienna, thanks to substitute Krzyzstof Piatek's second international goal 10 minutes from time, was Brzeczek's first win in seven attempts since taking over after the 2018 World Cup.

Brzeczek has kept faith with most of the old guard, led by captain Robert Lewandowski, while new boys introduced have included striker Piatek and defender Jan Bednarek.

"Maybe it was the right moment for a cold shower," said Brzeczek after the defeat in Ljubljana.

"We have seen that we still have a long and difficult journey to go to the European Championship."

The draw with Austria cut Poland's lead at the top of Group G to two points, ahead of Slovenia, as Lewandowski, making a record 108th appearance for his country, blew the best chance of the game in a one-on-one with goalkeeper Cican Stankovic.

His caps record was then equalled by midfielder Jakub Blaszczykowski, who appeared as a second-half substitute.

Slovenia are thriving under coach Matjaz Kek, in his second spell in charge.

After a slow start, when they drew 1-1 with both Israel and North Macedonia before losing 1-0 away to Austria, they then won three on the trot – with a 5-0 thrashing of Latvia, a 2-0 win over Poland and a thrilling 3-2 triumph over Israel, when Dynamo Kiev midfielder Benjamin Verbic's last-minute header secured the victory that took his team into second place.

The win over Poland has been Slovenia's most impressive performance. Kek's side played bravely in a sold-out Stozice stadium and were rewarded 10 minutes before the break when Aljaz Struna broke the deadlock. The hosts doubled their lead in the 65th minute when Andraz Sporar was put through by Atalanta's Josip Ilicic.

Close...Latvia keeper Pavels Steinbors denies Marko Arnautovic of Austria

> "We have seen that we still have a long and difficult journey to go to the European Championship"
>
> Poland coach Jerzy Brzeczek

Austria recovered from losing to Poland and Israel by winning three in a row, including a 6-0 thrashing of Latvia in Salzburg, before holding Poland to a goalless stalemate.

Israel began well, drawing at home to Slovenia and then beating Austria 4-2 and Latvia 3-0, but have since dropped points to Slovenia and Poland. They remain in contention for a qualifying place but have been heavily reliant on the goals of China-based attacker Eran Zahavi, who tops the Europe-wide scorers' list, with nine goals from six games, including hat-tricks against Austria and Latvia.

Latvia, whose Serbian coach Slavisa Stojanovic took over in March, have suffered six successive defeats, conceding 21 goals in the process.

New boy...Poland's Jan Bednarek (in red)

STAR MAN

KRZYSZTOF PIATEK
Poland

Unusually for a major tournament qualifying campaign, Robert Lewandowski is not leading Poland's goalscoring charge. This time around the honours board is currently controlled by fellow front-runner Piatek, the Milan striker with an uncanny knack of netting vital goals to order.

The 24-year-old came off the bench to score the winner in away victories in

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
POLAND	6	4	1	1	8	2	13
SLOVENIA	6	3	2	1	12	5	11
AUSTRIA	6	3	1	2	13	6	10
N MACEDONIA	6	2	2	2	8	8	8
ISRAEL	6	2	2	2	11	11	8
LATVIA	6	0	0	6	1	21	0

21.03.19	Israel-Slovenia	1-1
21.03.19	N Macedonia-Latvia	3-1
21.03.19	Austria-Poland	0-1
24.03.19	Israel-Austria	4-2
24.03.19	Slovenia-N Macedonia	1-1
24.03.19	Poland-Latvia	2-0
07.06.19	Latvia-Israel	0-3
07.06.19	N Macedonia-Poland	0-1
07.06.19	Austria-Slovenia	1-0
10.06.19	Poland-Israel	4-0
10.06.19	Latvia-Slovenia	0-5
10.06.19	N Macedonia-Austria	1-4
05.09.19	Israel-N Macedonia	1-1
06.09.19	Slovenia-Poland	2-0
06.09.19	Austria-Latvia	6-0
09.09.19	Slovenia-Israel	3-2
09.09.19	Poland-Austria	0-0
09.09.19	Latvia-N Macedonia	0-2
10.10.19	Latvia-Poland	
10.10.19	N Macedonia-Slovenia	
10.10.19	Austria-Israel	
13.10.19	Slovenia-Austria	
13.10.19	Poland-N Macedonia	
15.10.19	Israel-Latvia	
16.11.19	Slovenia-Latvia	
16.11.19	Israel-Poland	
16.11.19	Austria-N Macedonia	
19.11.19	Poland-Slovenia	
19.11.19	Latvia-Austria	
19.11.19	N Macedonia-Israel	

Prolific...Piatek

Austria and North Macedonia, and when starting in the 4-0 home win over Israel he got the ball rolling in spectacular fashion, with a right-foot screamer from an acute angle.

No doubt about it, he is currently Poland's lucky charm. Since making his debut in 2018 he has been on the scoresheet four times in seven appearances, a solid rate of return by anyone's standards.

No one should be startled by his exploits in the international arena. After all, he was one of Europe's most prolific marksmen last term, putting away no fewer than 34 chances for clubs and country, including 30 in Italian league and cup action: 19 in the first-half of the season for Genoa, then 11 more following a move to Milan in January. Not bad at all for a Serie A rookie.

Piatek's performances for Milan have not exactly been awe-inspiring of late, with some suggesting that his style does not suit the complex attacking schemes of Milan coach Marco Giampalo.

What Poland boss Jerzy Brzeczek now has to work out is how best to use him.

Revelation

KONRAD LAIMER

Austria

Three wins, a draw, a goal, four assists and praise a plenty for his all-action efforts in his country's engine room, the 22-year-old RB Leipzig central midfielder has enjoyed a wonderful start to life with Austria's national team.

Ferociously leading the press and playing quick snappy passes to generally keep the tempo high, here is a man eager to impress – and it's easy to understand why.

First called into the fold back in June 2017, he did not see any action on that occasion and for the next two years remained in the deep freeze. "I've had to be patient and my chance finally has come," he says. "I was determined to give the best possible account of myself."

Eager...Laimer

During his first 18 months with Leipzig, who he joined in 2017, he was often unconvincing and only in the second half of last season did he truly nail down a first-team slot.

Many believe Austria's long-term defensive midfield duo will be formed by Laimer and Xaver Schlager, who is currently out with a broken ankle. The pair played together for Salzburg from the age of 13.

GROUP H

TURKEY THRIVING AS GUNES TURNS TO YOUTH

Turkey are thriving under Senol Gunes, who was reappointed in June as national coach – 15 years after he left the post, having led Turkey to a best-ever third place at the World Cup in 2002.

Gunes has called on youngsters to reinvigorate the side. And with Cengiz Under (22) and Yusuf Yazici (22) leading the attack – and joined by midfielders Dorukhan Tokoz (23) and Irfan Kahveci (24), and defenders Merih Demiral (21) and Kaan Ayhan (24), the average age of the side has plummeted.

The Turks won their first three qualifiers, including a 2-0 win over world champions France, before a surprise loss to Iceland in Reykjavik. The game in Iceland took place amid tensions between the two nations after Turkey complained of being made to wait for three hours at passport control at Keflavik Airport a day earlier and being subjected to bag searches.

Wins over Andorra, thanks to a last-minute header from Ozan Tufan, and Moldova confirmed their top spot ahead of France on head-to-head record.

The world champions put 19 goals past Moldova, Iceland, Andorra and Albania, but the 2-0 defeat to Turkey in Konya in June was a setback. "When you play like that on a collective level there's nothing positive to take from the game," coach Didier Deschamps said afterwards.

"That was a slap in the face for us and there's not a lot I can say. We didn't play the way we should have against a team which played the way it likes to."

Iceland, under new Swedish coach Eric Hamrun but with virtually the same side that competed at Euro 2016 and the 2018 World Cup, beat Turkey 2-1 with both of their goals coming from Ragnar Sigurdsson headers.

They are in danger of missing out on automatic qualification after suffering a comprehensive loss to France and, in their most recent match, losing 4-2 to Albania, but could yet find a way through to the finals via the play-offs.

Albania fired Christian Panucci in March after losing their opening game to Turkey. He was replaced by fellow Italian Eduardo Reja, but the mixed results have continued.

A 4-1 loss to France at Stade de France, before which Albania's players had to endure the wrong anthem being played, was followed a few days later by a 4-2 triumph over Iceland. Captain Elseid Hysaj scored his first international goal after a back-heel set-up by Rey Manaj, who was one of six changes Reja made to the starting line-up.

Moldova parted company with coach Alexandru Spiridon after losing to Albania in June. But his replacement Seman Altman has fared no better, with the team going down 3-0 to Iceland and 4-0 in Turkey in their September matches.

Andorra, with six defeats from six games, have failed to win or draw a single game since they first entered the European Championship qualifiers in the late 1990s.

> "When you play like that on a collective level there's nothing positive to take from the game. That was a slap in the face for us and there's not a lot I can say"
>
> **France coach Didier Deschamps after the 2-0 loss to Turkey**

On target...Kingsley Coman scores for France against Albania

STAR MAN

CENGIZ UNDER
Turkey

In a qualification process that has turned out much more rewarding than anyone thought possible for Turkey, the Roma winger has been the meteor which fizzes across the heavens.

Because of injury problems, the 22-year-old has only appeared in one preliminary tie, but what a 90 minutes it was as the tyro with the dancing feet played a starring role in the 2-0 home

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
TURKEY	6	5	0	1	14	2	15
FRANCE	6	5	0	1	19	4	15
ICELAND	6	4	0	2	10	9	12
ALBANIA	6	3	0	3	10	9	9
MOLDOVA	6	1	0	5	2	17	3
ANDORRA	6	0	0	6	0	14	0

22.03.19	Moldova-France	1-4
22.03.19	Andorra-Iceland	0-2
22.03.19	Albania-Turkey	0-2
25.03.19	Turkey-Moldova	4-0
25.03.19	France-Iceland	4-0
25.03.19	Andorra-Albania	0-3
08.06.19	Iceland-Albania	1-0
08.06.19	Moldova-Andorra	1-0
08.06.19	Turkey-France	2-0
11.06.19	Iceland-Turkey	2-1
11.06.19	Andorra-France	0-4
11.06.19	Albania-Moldova	2-0
07.09.19	Iceland-Moldova	3-0
07.09.19	Turkey-Andorra	1-0
07.09.19	France-Albania	4-1
10.09.19	Moldova-Turkey	0-4
10.09.19	France-Andorra	3-0
10.09.19	Albania-Iceland	4-2
11.10.19	Turkey-Albania	
11.10.19	Iceland-France	
11.10.19	Andorra-Moldova	
14.10.19	Moldova-Albania	
14.10.19	Iceland-Andorra	
14.10.19	France-Turkey	
14.11.19	Turkey-Iceland	
14.11.19	France-Moldova	
14.11.19	Albania-Andorra	
17.11.19	Moldova-Iceland	
17.11.19	Andorra-Turkey	
17.11.19	Albania-France	

Victorious...Turkey celebrate beating France

Talent...Under

win over world champions France.

With his pace, trickery, fearlessness and accurate dead-ball delivery, he was a thorn in French flesh all game long and was involved in both of his side's goals, first whipping in a free-kick which led to Kaan Ayhan heading home, then doubling his team's advantage with a well-struck cross-shot.

French left-back Lucas Digne had a torrid evening, attempting in vain to ward off the little wide man, and was probably relieved to be taken off at half-time.

Unfortunate to tweak a hamstring during a national-team training session in September – an injury that would put him out of action for five weeks – Under could, as long as he manages to slay his physical demons, develop into a genuine world-class talent.

"I'm proud that Turkish players like Under are pitching up in Europe and doing well there," says former Turkey coach Fatih Terim.

"He's young, he's hungry and crucially has lots of untapped potential. I don't think he'll let pressure get to him. He has a great mentality, that of a champion."

Revelation

LEO DUBOIS
France

Didier Deschamps is a difficult man to please. Besides talent and good form, the French coach also demands strong characters and team players and those that rock the boat need not apply.

The Lyon right-back undeniably fits the bill in all categories: enterprising, disciplined, tremendously consistent and a professional from top to toe.

He describes himself as a perfectionist, as being "eternally dissatisfied" – which is music to the ears of the similarly inclined Deschamps.

Perfectionist ...Dubois

While the 25-year-old is only at the beginning of his national-team journey and still has much to prove, he does have three major factors in his favour. Unlike France's first-choice right-back Benjamin Pavard, he is an out-and-out defender. He has the advantage of competing in the Champions League with OL and can operate on the left-side too.

Skipper at Nantes, he joined Lyon last year and came close to being handed the armband this term by new boss Sylvinho before Jason Denayer was given the nod.

GROUP I

BELGIUM TURN ON THE GOALS

The outstanding team of the qualifying campaign, Belgium have recorded six straight victories, are top scorers with 19 goals and have conceded just once. And although Roberto Martinez's side face a potentially tricky game away to second-placed Russia in November, automatic qualification should have been secured by then.

With the exception of Marouane Fellaini, who announced his international retirement, and the injured Vincent Kompany, Martinez has relied on the same players who reached the 2018 World Cup semi-finals, and Fellaini's absence has offered more opportunities for younger talent.

"Leander Dendoncker and Youri Tielemans showed that there are many younger players waiting to make the breakthrough," says Martinez. "They have learnt a lot over the last year and played as if they were long-standing regulars.

"Their performances send out a clear message for Belgian football. They are two players who earned their stripes in Belgian football and only then moved to clubs outside the country."

While the goals have been spread around the squad, with 10 different players on the scoresheet, Romelu Lukaku has been the team's top scorer with four goals so far.

"This is the first time I have seen him free and happy," says Martinez of the player who has joined Internazionale this season. "Going back to many camps, I have not seen Rom so focused, so happy, so refreshed by the new challenge.

"I think he is now ready to face one of the biggest footballing chapters in his career with the Inter move. He is very driven to be as good as he can for the national team. I have been very impressed with his happiness and the way he is looking forward to the football ahead."

Russia gave Belgium a scare in the opener in Brussels. After Tielemans had put the home side ahead, Artyom Dzyuba caught keeper Thibaut Courtois in possession and passed to Denis Cheryshev, who equalised. But Belgium's superior pressure told, with Eden Hazard winning and converting a 45th-minute penalty before tapping in a late third goal.

Five subsequent victories have put Stanislav Cherchesov's side within touching distance of second spot.

Scotland have not recovered from their disastrous start, when a 3-0 defeat in Kazakhstan led to the end of Alex McLeish's second spell as manager.

His replacement, Steve Clarke, has fared little better. Oliver Burke's late winner against Cyprus at Hampden Park spared Scotland's blushes in Clarke's first game, but defeats to Belgium and a home loss to Russia ended any hopes of automatic qualification.

Their best route to the finals now lies with the play-offs, after they won their Nations League C group ahead of Israel and Albania last year.

San Marino, with six defeats, no goals scored and 28 conceded, currently have the worst record of any side in any of the qualifying sections.

> "Leander Dendoncker and Youri Tielemans showed that there are many younger players waiting to make the breakthrough"
>
> Belgium boss Roberto Martinez

No way through... Scotland's Oliver McBurnie is crowded out against Russia

Prolific...Timothy Castagne (left) and Dries Mertens celebrate another Belgium goal

STAR MAN

KEVIN DE BRUYNE
Belgium

Leadership brings out the best in KDB. That was the verdict of the Belgian press after the Manchester City midfield maestro's first game as the captain of the national side, putting on a masterclass in his side's 4-0 thumping of Scotland at Hampden Park in Glasgow.

This was a symphonic recital from De Bruyne, as close to perfection as one possibly could achieve; a display of vision,

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BELGIUM	6	6	0	0	19	1	18
RUSSIA	6	5	0	1	18	4	15
KAZAKHSTAN	6	2	1	3	8	9	7
CYPRUS	6	2	1	3	11	6	7
SCOTLAND	6	2	0	4	5	13	6
SAN MARINO	6	0	0	6	0	28	0

21.03.19	Kazakhstan-Scotland	3-0
21.03.19	Cyprus-San Marino	5-0
21.03.19	Belgium-Russia	3-1
24.03.19	Kazakhstan-Russia	0-4
24.03.19	San Marino-Scotland	0-2
24.03.19	Cyprus-Belgium	0-2
08.06.19	Russia-San Marino	9-0
08.06.19	Scotland-Cyprus	2-1
08.06.19	Belgium-Kazakhstan	3-0
11.06.19	Kazakhstan-San Marino	4-0
11.06.19	Russia-Cyprus	1-0
11.06.19	Belgium-Scotland	3-0
06.09.19	Cyprus-Kazakhstan	1-1
06.09.19	Scotland-Russia	1-2
06.09.19	San Marino-Belgium	0-4
09.09.19	Scotland-Belgium	0-4
09.09.19	San Marino-Cyprus	0-4
09.09.19	Russia-Kazakhstan	1-0
10.10.19	Kazakhstan-Cyprus	
10.10.19	Russia-Scotland	
10.10.19	Belgium-San Marino	
13.10.19	Kazakhstan-Belgium	
13.10.19	Scotland-San Marino	
13.10.19	Cyprus-Russia	
16.11.19	Cyprus-Scotland	
16.11.19	San Marino-Kazakhstan	
16.11.19	Russia-Belgium	
19.11.19	Belgium-Cyprus	
19.11.19	San Marino-Russia	
19.11.19	Scotland-Kazakhstan	

Leader...De Bruyne

energy, drive, precision passing and buckets of joie de vivre. Seemingly everywhere on the pitch, he marked the occasion by setting up three goals before adding the fourth with a sweetly struck first-time shot. That only 25,000 fans turned up to watch was a crying shame as players of such class do not come along too often.

Among the shower of plaudits that were delivered to his door was the observation that De Bruyne appeared to be liberated by the unavailability through injury of usual captain Eden Hazard. And it's a perfectly valid theory as, while the pair have a good relationship personally and professionally, no one can deny that when Hazard is on the field for Belgium he monopolises the ball.

Although De Bruyne does boast a fine assist record as an international, with 32 in 72 games, the flame-haired magician can, at times, take a strategic back-seat to Hazard. If Belgium coach Roberto Martinez could find a formula in which both main men have equal attacking input, the *Diables Rouges* would be even more formidable than they are already.

Revelation

ILZAT AKHMETOV

Russia

Russia's Young Player of The Year for 2018, the CSKA Moscow midfielder has settled in well with the national team since winning his first full cap in the 3-1 loss in Belgium.

The 21-year-old has a complicated threefold brief for both club and country: to win the ball, control the tempo of his side's attacking game and provide a steady stream of through balls to the front runners.

At his best, he plays with the style and a swagger of a playmaker and arguably is the most technically gifted individual in the Russian team, which inevitably brings with it a huge amount of responsibility.

Responsibility... Akhmetov

But he was not always a footballing "quarterback". At Rubin Kazan, who he quit for CSKA on acrimonious terms in 2018, he normally lined up as an attacking midfielder or on the wing. CSKA boss Viktor Goncharenko, however, opted to place his quick feet and vision in a more withdrawn context.

One of his most influential mentors was ex-Rubin coach Javi Gracia, who recently was fired by Watford.

SO FAR SO GOOD FOR MANCINI

After being handed the task of rebuilding the national side following failure to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, former Manchester City and Internazionale boss Roberto Mancini has overseen an unbeaten spell for the *Azzurri*. They finished narrowly behind Portugal in the inaugural Nations League and have since gone on a run of six straight wins in the Euro qualifiers.

Luck has played its part, though. In their most recent qualifier, against closest challengers Finland, a controversial penalty tipped the match in their favour. Jorginho scored the winning goal from the spot after Nicolo Barella's shot had hit Sauli Vaisanen's arm at point-blank range when the Finland defender had his arm across his chest and a penalty was harshly awarded.

Ciro Immobile had earlier headed Italy in front with his first international goal for two years before Teemu Pukki levelled from the penalty spot with Finland's first goal against Italy since 1977.

"After the disappointment of the World Cup, we're bouncing back in style," Immobile said afterwards.

During Italy's rebuilding process Mancini has given plenty of youngsters an opportunity, notably midfielder Nicolo Zaniolo and striker Moise Kean.

But despite 18 goals in six games, Mancini has yet to find the right blend in attack. He has plenty of talent on the wings with Federico Chiesa, Federico Bernardeschi and Lorenzo Insigne, but has yet to settle on the right central striker. Kean, Immobile and Andrea Belotti have all been used, while 38-year-old Fabio Quagliarella became the country's oldest scorer during the 6-0 rout of Liechetenstein.

Finland's campaign has been bookmarked by defeats to Italy. In between, four victories have seen Markku Kanerva's side establish themselves as favourites to take the second automatic qualifying spot.

Previously under-21 boss and assistant to Mixu Paatelainen, Kanerva has relied on team spirit to carry the squad through as few play at the top level in Europe. In-form Norwich City striker Pukki and goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky of Bayer Leverkusen are notable exceptions.

"Above all, I am proud once again with how the team showed the fight and determination to win and the way in which we ended up playing," Kanerva said after September's 1-0 win over Greece.

"It has been essential to our success. We believe that working together will produce results."

The Finns now face crucial games in October, away to Bosnia and at home to Armenia, who retain hopes of snatching second place after their 4-2 triumph over Bosnia in Yerevan. The result effectively ended Bosnia's qualification hopes and prompted coach Robert Prosinecki to offer his resignation.

> "After the disappointment of the World Cup, we're bouncing back in style"
>
> Italy's Ciro Immobile

Greece have been a huge disappointment. Angelos Anastasiadis was sacked following defeats to Italy and Armenia in June and the run of poor form has continued under his replacement, Dutchman John Van't Schip, with a late equaliser from Dennis Salanovic securing a shock draw for Liechtenstein in Athens. It was the part-timers' first point of the campaign.

Threat...Italy's Alessio Romagnoli in action against Armenia

Success...Finland goalkeeper Lucas Hradecky celebrates against Greece

STAR MAN

STEFANO SENSI
Italy

Over the last 12 months, the diminutive midfielder has taken on the role of Italian football's rocket man, making his bow in a friendly against the USA in November 2018, scoring his first international goal in the 6-0 thumping of Liechtenstein, earning a lucrative transfer from Sassuolo and scoring on his Internazionale debut.

The 24-year-old from the Marche region of central Italy is certainly the

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
ITALY	6	6	0	0	18	3	18
FINLAND	6	4	0	2	8	4	12
ARMENIA	6	3	0	3	12	11	9
BOSNIA	6	2	1	3	12	11	7
GREECE	6	1	2	3	7	10	5
LIECHTENSTEIN	6	0	1	5	1	19	1

23.03.19	Liechtenstein-Greece	0-2
23.03.19	Italy-Finland	2-0
23.03.19	Bosnia-Armenia	2-1
26.03.19	Armenia-Finland	0-2
26.03.19	Italy-Liechtenstein	6-0
26.03.19	Bosnia-Greece	2-2
08.06.19	Finland-Bosnia	2-0
08.06.19	Armenia-Liechtenstein	3-0
08.06.19	Greece-Italy	0-3
11.06.19	Liechtenstein-Finland	0-2
11.06.19	Italy-Bosnia	2-1
11.06.19	Greece-Armenia	2-3
05.09.19	Armenia-Italy	1-3
05.09.19	Finland-Greece	1-0
05.09.19	Bosnia-Liechtenstein	5-0
08.09.19	Armenia-Bosnia	4-2
08.09.19	Greece-Liechtenstein	1-1
08.09.19	Finland-Italy	1-2
12.10.19	Bosnia-Finland	
12.10.19	Liechtenstein-Armenia	
12.10.19	Italy-Greece	
15.10.19	Finland-Armenia	
15.10.19	Liechtenstein-Italy	
15.10.19	Greece-Bosnia	
15.11.19	Finland-Liechtenstein	
15.11.19	Armenia-Greece	
15.11.19	Bosnia-Italy	
18.11.19	Liechtenstein-Bosnia	
18.11.19	Italy-Armenia	
18.11.19	Greece-Finland	

Attributes...Sensi

man of the moment in the peninsula. So much for those who once proclaimed the youngster to be too frail and short to flourish in the modern game.

He has all the attributes of a midfield A-lister – the wonderful range of pass, imagination and speed of thought, the dribbling ability and shooting velocity – but that's not to suggest he is already the finished article.

He only has four full caps to date and recently had mixed fortunes on international duty, spoiling a night of much good work by conceding a penalty for a rash challenge on Finland striker Teemu Pukki. Italy boss Roberto Mancini was not best pleased, though he will not hold it against him.

Sensi's game definitely is evolving. At Sassuolo he was normally used as a deep-lying playmaker but now has a different brief for club and country, usually deployed in a box-to-box role with added creative responsibilities.

In the future there is every chance that Mancini will pair the Inter star in central midfield with Paris Saint-Germain's Marco Verratti.

Revelation

AMER GOJAK
Bosnia

The last few months have been particularly fruitful for the attacking midfielder or winger, looking at home on his first start for Bosnia, in a 2-1 friendly loss to Italy, and racking up goals and assists in wins over Liechtenstein and Armenia.

Bosnia boss Robert Prosinecki – a brilliant ball-playing creator in his playing heyday – knows an artist when he sees one and often speaks of the 22-year-old's "massive potential". Similar to his national-team boss, Gojak can be quite magical on the ball, full of bewitching twists, feints and ball-on-a-string trickery.

Artist...Gojak

Born in Sarajevo, he came through the ranks of leading local club Zeljeznicar, but would make his pro debut at another capital city outfit, Olimpic, aged barely 17.

A little more than 12 months later he was on the move again, this time signing for Balkan powerhouse Dinamo Zagreb, where gold medals and career milestones have come as standard, with four national championships and three Croatian cups.

HITTING NEW HEIGHTS

WORDS: Nick Bidwell

Following his summer move to Real Madrid, the pressure on Eden Hazard is greater than ever

Throughout Claude Puel's coaching career, caution has normally been the star by which he navigates. But there's an exception to every rule – and Puel was certainly bold when handing Eden Hazard his debut for northern French outfit Lille at the tender age of 16 years, 10 months and 17 days.

Many other bosses might have waited for the young Belgian to develop further, to pick up a few more tricks of the trade with the Lille youth team and add a little more muscle. Not Puel.

He blooded Hazard at the first opportunity, sending him on as a late substitute in a Ligue 1 encounter at Nancy in November 2007.

"I'd picked him a few weeks earlier in a friendly versus Club Brugge," recalls Puel. "I didn't know how he would react. In the end he did some extraordinary things and performed very ably. He already had that rare ability to go past four or five players in quick succession – and, what's more, in pressure situations.

"He would put his foot on the ball and time seemed to stop – as if he'd suspended it in order to make the best pass. When you thought he might be going up a dead end, he'd find a way out. He had this quickness of thought and lucidity."

Lille's youngest-ever debutant, Hazard was anything but a standard-issue rookie. Here was a kid loaded with great expectations. He knew it and so did an army of

scribes, with stories abounding in the Belgian and French press of a baby genius. The hype factory was up and running in advance of his professional bow. One only has to listen to the commentary on Canal Plus TV as he waited to make his grand entrance against Nancy. "The lad who is coming on, everyone [at Lille] believes he is a future star," declared the commentator. "Keep a close eye on him."

Few, if any, will be unaware of what Hazard has gone on to achieve: a French double with Lille in 2011; two Premier League titles (2015 and 2017), a Europa League triumph (2019) and an FA Cup win (2018) with Chelsea; 102 caps for Belgium; a bronze medal at the last World Cup; and a £90million move to Real Madrid this summer.

Yet even at the dawn of his career he was a focus for veneration.

For example, the day after his Lille first-team baptism, the Belgian ▸

newspaper *La Derniere Heure* was feverishly polishing its crystal ball.

"Eden is the sort of artist who doesn't come along often in our country," wrote Thomas Busiau. "If he succeeds in stripping down his game and learns how to let go of the ball at the right time – the weakness of all technically gifted players – he could perhaps become a world star in the medium term.

"He has a long way to go but he has the potential in his feet, the same mark of genius as a Cristiano Ronaldo."

Busiau, whose own life was tragically cut short a few years ago by a brain tumour, was also keen to draw the parallels between Hazard and former Belgium international number 10 Enzo Scifo, writing: "The comparison is an easy one to make. They have lots in common: build, playmaking class, precociousness and both were born in La Louviere."

Indeed, for a brief period the pair were together at AFC Tubize – Scifo the head coach and Hazard the schoolboy-side jewel. Scifo says: "Once a week, I used to do a session with each of the club's youth categories and one day I was working with the under-14s. I'd never been in contact with Eden before. I'd heard some comments about him, but had never seen him play.

"The session began and after 10 minutes I had to ask the under-14 coach: 'Who's this phenomenon?' He replied: 'Well, it's Eden.'

"I saw he was an exceptional player straightaway. He was brimming over with quality. He could do everything with a ball. He was just 14 and already looked like an adult. I knew he was destined for a super career."

Thanks to his dribbling skills, explosive pace and extraordinary elusiveness, Hazard was born to rip defences apart. But paradoxically he has always had to go that extra mile to convince coaches. Scifo claimed in an interview with *France-Football* in 2012 that some of the staff at Tubize thought he did not have the physique or character to make the grade. To a certain degree, the analytical song remained the same after he joined the Lille academy at the age of 14 in 2005.

According to Badis Lebbihi, a Lille youth-team colleague, a number of officials at the club were not at all sure that he was made of the right stuff, declaring: "At the time, I knew he was very good. However, others were sceptical. Some wondered if he had the mentality for the top level.

"Now that he has made it these same people have changed their tune. I'm not going to name names, but today they say that his talent was there for all to see and that they knew that he was going to succeed. That makes me laugh.

"Back then his biggest problem was that he was neither a great goalscorer or passer. His main strength was his incredible dribbling ability."

In some ways the young Hazard was his own worst enemy. He was far from assiduous on the training ground, could blow hot and cold on the field of play, and could be cocky and irreverent – even to the point of sparking the rancour of team-mates. A couple of years ago, Lille defender Gregory Tafforeau revealed on French TV that early in Eden's career two players at the club had struck him during altercations.

"We'd heard about a tremendous prospect with the youth team," Tafforeau told a SFR sports-channel chat show. "He was promoted to the pro squad along with three others and they were a little too sure of themselves.

"Claude Puel used to insist that we all wore shin-pads, but Eden arrived with his socks rolled down and his laces undone. It annoyed the older players. One morning, on arriving at the gym, I heard

Family guy...Hazard (centre) with (from left) grandmother Nicole, brother Kylian, mother Carine, brother Ethan, grandfather Francis and father Thierry

"He was brimming over with quality. He could do everything with a ball. He was just 14 and already looked like an adult. I knew he was destined for a super career"

Enzo Scifo on Hazard

Young talent...playing for Belgium under-17s against Holland

Timeline

AUG 20, 2007
Plays the first of three games for Belgium at the Under-17 World Cup in South Korea, against Tunisia.

NOV 24, 2007
Makes his debut for Lille, coming on as a sub against Nancy.

SEP 20, 2008
A goal against Auxerre makes him the youngest scorer in Lille's history.

NOV 18, 2008
Makes his international debut, as a sub against Luxembourg, and becomes the eighth-youngest to play for Belgium.

JUL 30, 2009
Gets his first goal in continental club competition, against Serbia's Sevojno in the Europa League.

a commotion. Eden was shocked and holding his cheek. Apparently, he had come across Franck Beria in town the previous day and had taken the mickey out of him in front of his wife and kids. Franck told him that would be the last time he disrespected him."

Hazard also had a bust-up with Nicolas Plestan, who revealed: "When he was a kid, Eden would alternately train with the seniors and the under-21s and he had a habit of criticising the senior pros while with the youngsters.

"One morning he went to shake my hand and so I asked him why he was slating me behind my back. By way of response he just smiled. I slapped him. I'm not proud of it but don't regret it either. It's part of dressing-room life.

"He wasn't being a team player. He'd already had a run-in with another player. However, he did become a real worker. Apart from the concerns about his behaviour – which you could put down to his age – he was a good boy and I do admire him a lot."

Debut...Claude Puel

Three factors saved Hazard at this difficult time: his transcendent talent, his characteristic coolness under pressure and triple rations of ambition. Well aware of his gifts, he had a glittering career mapped out in his head and nothing was ever going to divert him from that path.

"He was just 15 when he laid out his career plans to me," says Jean-Michel Vandamme, the former Lille academy chief. "He was talking of winning trophies with us and then moving to a big foreign club. If another youngster had said that I would have thought he was too big for his boots. But Eden walked the walk."

Ex-Lille general manager Xavier Thuilot offers a telling insight into Hazard's independence of spirit and desire to adopt a step-by-step approach to his career, stating: "In the autumn of 2008, he was approaching his 18th birthday and we'd organised a meeting where we hoped to settle what he was going to do next: stay at Lille or move abroad. He arrived with a big entourage, so much so that we had to shift the rendezvous from my office to a conference room.

"He was being tracked by a lot of major clubs, including Chelsea. The discussions began and, after a while, Eden, sitting at the end of the table, put his hand up and made it clear he wanted to remain with us. His agents turned towards him and asked him if he was sure. He didn't change his mind."

Chelsea would have to wait for the best part of four years to finally get their man, signing him in a £32million deal in the summer of 2012.

For Lille, bringing through the likes of Hazard was not as straightforward as one might think. While he did not require any

Domestic battle...taking on Marseille

MAY 14, 2011

Wins the French Cup as Lille beat Paris Saint-Germain in the Final.

MAY 21, 2011

Lille clinch the Ligue 1 title with a 2-2 draw away to PSG.

SEP 14, 2011

Makes his Champions League debut in a 2-2 draw with CSKA Moscow.

technical refinement whatsoever, he had a great deal of athletic and physical ground to make up and had all manner of collective lessons to learn.

"When he broke into the pro ranks he had to prove himself," says former Lille reserve-team boss Pascal Plancque. "He did have a laid-back side to him and that could shock some people.

"At the start it was not simple for him with a few of the older players. But he quickly learned the code of conduct to adopt. The experienced guys did not take long to understand that Eden would win matches for them."

All he needed was the right head coach. Whereas Puel frequently chided him for his lack of consistency and unwillingness to tracking back, the next Lille boss, Rudi Garcia, was considerably more sympathetic. Drawing a veil over Hazard's so-called faults, Garcia was far more interested in what Hazard could do.

After mainly being used as a substitute in the first part of 2008-09, Hazard suddenly became a starter in the new year, and in no time at all he was tripping the light fantastic, voted France's best young player in 2009 and 2010.

Happy times... celebrating (far right) with Lille team-mates

Both Lille and Hazard grew ever stronger and in the 2010-11 season the pay-off was delivered, with the little Belgian centre stage in their conquest of a league-and-cup double, the club's first silverware in over half a century.

Hazard, deservedly elected MVP in Ligue 1, proved quite unstoppable, ostensibly lining up on the left flank but given licence to cut inside whenever the mood took him. Not so much classic winger as off-centre playmaker.

It cannot be stressed enough how dependant that Lille side was on Hazard's inspiration. The Belgian kid was their attacking catalyst. He brought along the explosives and lit the fuse. No wonder Garcia was so effusive in his praise, explaining: "He's a player who never ever doubts himself.

"He is never deterred when something he tries does not come off. The next minute he'll put the ball in the back of the net or make a decisive pass."

In his autobiography, Garcia also gives short shrift to the theory that Hazard's free-spirited tendencies make him an awkward customer to handle. He wrote: "Eden is a really good kid. Cool, calm and always ready to listen. A very pleasant player to coach because you don't have to repeat the same thing over and over to him. He understands, he accepts, he takes it on board and works it out."

Garcia was the perfect coach for Hazard. He gave him a great deal of freedom, did not bog him down with pages of script and generally treated the entire Lille squad with kid gloves. As long as his players

OCT 7, 2011
Gets his first international goal, in a 4-1 victory against Kazakhstan.

JUN 4, 2012
Chelsea confirm they have agreed terms with Lille for his signature.

AUG 19, 2012
Makes his Premier League debut as Chelsea beat Wigan Athletic 2-0.

AUG 25, 2012
Scores his first goal for Chelsea, as they beat Newcastle United 2-0.

MAY 11, 2013
An injury against Aston Villa rules him out of the Europa League Final.

18+

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> "He was just 15 when he laid out his career plans to me...if another youngster had said that I would have thought he was too big for his boots. But Eden walked the walk"
>
> **Jean-Michel Vandamme, former chief of the Lille academy**

performed on match days he saw no need to wield the big stick, at pains to promote fun and good humour.

"On Thursdays at Lille it was *a la carte*," Hazard told *L'Equipe* in 2017. "It was great. We could do what we wanted.

"I'd practice volleys with some of the guys or stay inside. If, by chance, someone had suggested playing cards, I would have done that. No problem."

Not known for his off-the ball diligence, Hazard admitted in an interview with *France-Football* earlier this year that he can be a source of frustration for coaches – and that's undoubtedly true. He can be wilful, has little appetite for defensive duties and can go missing when things are not going his side's way.

A large number of bosses insist on their artists wearing sweat-soaked overalls. But for Hazard, that goes totally against the grain. Risk versus reward. You really have to accept him as he is.

Feud...with Jose Mourinho

His feud with Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho during the opening months of the 2015-16 season was a sorry saga all round. Hazard, a leading light in Chelsea's conquest of the Premier League title the previous season – so much so that both the PFA and the Football Writers named him the best in show – would have expected to keep the positive momentum going. But instead it all messily fell apart, with Chelsea slumping, Mourinho sniping at him for his lack of defensive work-rate and bodily fragility, and the Belgian star clearly sulking.

A week before Christmas 2015, Chelsea sacked Mourinho. Not that it seemed to give any satisfaction to Hazard, who immediately sent the Portuguese a text apologising for his below-par displays.

"I don't regret many things in my career, but not being able to work with Mourinho at Chelsea anymore is one of them," he revealed to Flemish daily *Het Laatste Nieuws*. "We had a team that could win more trophies. We just ended up in a negative cycle.

"I sent [Mourinho] a message to say I was sorry. I felt a little bit guilty because I'd been player of the year. I'd been one of the most influential players. Then I performed less."

His clash with Mourinho was not the first instance of him butting heads with an authority figure. Back in the early summer of 2011, at the age of just 20, he found himself in the middle of a major national-team scandal, attacked from all sides after a disciplinary lapse during a Euro 2012 qualifier at home to Turkey.

Upset at being withdrawn on the hour mark, Hazard refused the hand of *Diables Rouges* coach Georges Leekens, headed straight to the dressing room, swiftly showered and left the stadium.

With the game still going on, he was then caught relish-handed at a fast-food stall outside the ground, devouring a burger in the company of his father and friends. That episode led to a "Burgergate" headline in the Belgian media.

Two anonymous national-team insiders would subsequently claim that Hazard was not so much punished for sneaking off for a quarter-pounder as mouthing obscenities at Leekens on leaving the pitch. Apparently, a member of the Belgian back-up staff could lip read and turned informant after watching TV images of Hazard's substitution.

The trials and tribulations of Burgergate were in marked contrast to the acclamation which came his way on his senior debut for Belgium in November 2008 in a friendly versus Luxembourg.

Although he had only clocked up 168 minutes of first-team action with Lille, national coach Rene Vandereycken was sure the then 17-year-old would not freeze – and so it proved, coming off the bench to give a masterclass of technique on the move. Indeed, he almost scored with his first attacking foray, twisting and turning before firing in a shot which the keeper did well to parry at his near post.

It was an excellent start to life with the national side, but for quite some time that was as good as it would get. It took him 23 appearances and almost three

Farewell...with the Europa League on his last appearance for Chelsea

APR 27, 2014
Voted PFA Young Player of the Year and is runner-up in voting for the PFA Player of the Year award.

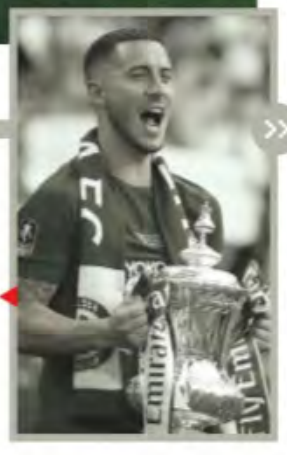
JUL 5, 2014
In the Belgium side that exits the World Cup with a 1-0 loss to Argentina in the quarter-finals.

MAR 1, 2015
Wins the League Cup with Chelsea as they beat Tottenham Hotspur 2-0 in the Final.

JUN 7, 2015
Captains his country for the first time, in a friendly against France.

JUL 1, 2016
Exits the Euros in the quarter-finals but finishes the tournament as joint-top assist provider.

MAY 19, 2018
His penalty is the only goal of the game in the FA Cup Final against Manchester United.



years to open his goalscoring account for his country – eventually breaking his duck with a goal against Kazakhstan in October 2011 – and he did receive brickbats a plenty, most of them inferring that he saved his best displays for Lille.

However, bit by bit, his national-team stock would improve. Since the beginning of 2015 he has scored no fewer than 24 goals and he was in scintillating form at the last World Cup – scoring three, making two others and voted runner-up in the player of the tournament poll. He has also been an excellent captain for the past four years, initially as a stand-in for Vincent Kompany, but these days on a permanent basis.

"Eden is a great skipper, a leader," gushed Belgium coach Roberto Martinez after Hazard's brilliant performance in the 2-1 win over Brazil in the quarter-finals of Russia 2018. "He's a player who is always true to himself and I love that attitude. He's always demanding the ball."

Hazard's emergence as one of the top 10 players in the world was no accident. He does not have a football family tree – he has a forest.

His father Thierry was a defensive midfielder in the 1990s for Belgian second-tier side La Louviere, while his mother Carine also played the game to a high standard, operating as an attacker in the domestic top flight. And each of his three brothers has shown the same aptitude for the round ball. Winger Thorgan, also a full international, made a big-money switch from Borussia Monchengladbach to Borussia Dortmund this summer; Kylian, another wide player, was on the books of Chelsea prior to transferring to Cercle Brugge; and the youngest of the band, 15-year-old Ethan, is in the Tubize academy and showing much promise.

> "He's a player who never ever doubts himself. He is never deterred when something he tries does not come off"
> **Former Lille coach Rudi Garcia**

Bearing in mind both Hazard parents were employed as PE teachers, sport was bound to form a vital part of their household. The family home in Braine-le-Comte, a town in southern Belgium, some 50km from the French border, is appropriately located in Rue du Stade, with the ground of local club Royal Stade Brainois literally at the bottom of the garden.

Real beginning... making his first appearance in La Liga

Eden was instinctively attracted to the football venue on his doorstep and even before reaching school age he was burrowing through a gap in the hedge to reach his field of dreams. He had caught the bug, and from that moment on he and a ball would be inseparable partners. He would play for RSB between the ages of five and 10 before moving to Tubize, a second-tier outfit with a well-respected academy.

No football aficionado in Braine-le-Comte was surprised to see Eden on top of the football pile.

"We rapidly realised that this kid had something more than the others," former RSB director Pascal Demoitiez told *Agence France Presse* back in 2016. "I remember a particular instance in the mid-1990s when Eden was about six or seven. We'd just had the pitch reseeded and to my annoyance I saw a young lad playing on it. I was going to reprimand him, to tell him it wasn't allowed.

"Then I recognised Eden. He was bare-footed and was systematically curling the ball into the top corners of the goal from the edge of the box. I was amazed by this boy who was just knee-high to a grasshopper."

Early in his teens, Hazard would move to Lille, but he might well have taken another turning. Anderlecht, Belgium's biggest and most prestigious club, were also pushing hard for his signature and for a while they thought they were in with a good chance of landing the prodigy.

Ultimately though, Hazard and his parents plumped for the cross-border option. The reasons? The feeling that youth development was superior in France, Lille's educational package – something Anderlecht could not provide – and Eden's long-held soft spot for French World Cup-winning number 10 Zinedine Zidane.

And now, for the next crucial stage of his career at Real Madrid, the 28-year-old Hazard will have "Zizou" as a coaching mentor. Master meet pupil. Get ready for a meeting of minds. WS

JUL 14, 2018
Scores the second goal as Belgium beat England 2-0 to finish third at the World Cup.

MAY 29, 2019
Scores twice as Chelsea beat Arsenal 4-1 in the Europa League Final.

JUN 7, 2019
Agrees a five-year contract with Real Madrid.

SEP 14, 2019
Makes his Real Madrid debut as a 60th-minute sub in a 3-2 victory over Levante.

Eden Hazard

the numbers game

TRANSFER FEES

£32m
LILLE TO CHELSEA
(2012)

£90m
CHELSEA TO REAL MADRID
(2019)

BELGIUM

102
CAPS

30
GOALS

REAL MADRID RECORD SIGNINGS (€M)

LIGUE 1 YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR

2009 Eden Hazard (Lille)	2010 Eden Hazard (Lille)	2011 Mamadou Sakho (PSG)	
2012 Younes Belhanda (Montpellier)	2013 Florian Thauvin (Bastia)	2014 Marco Verratti (PSG)	
2015 Nabil Fekir (Lyon)	2016 Ousmane Dembele (Rennes)	2017 Kylian Mbappe (Monaco)	
2018 Kylian Mbappe (PSG)	2019 Kylian Mbappe (PSG)		

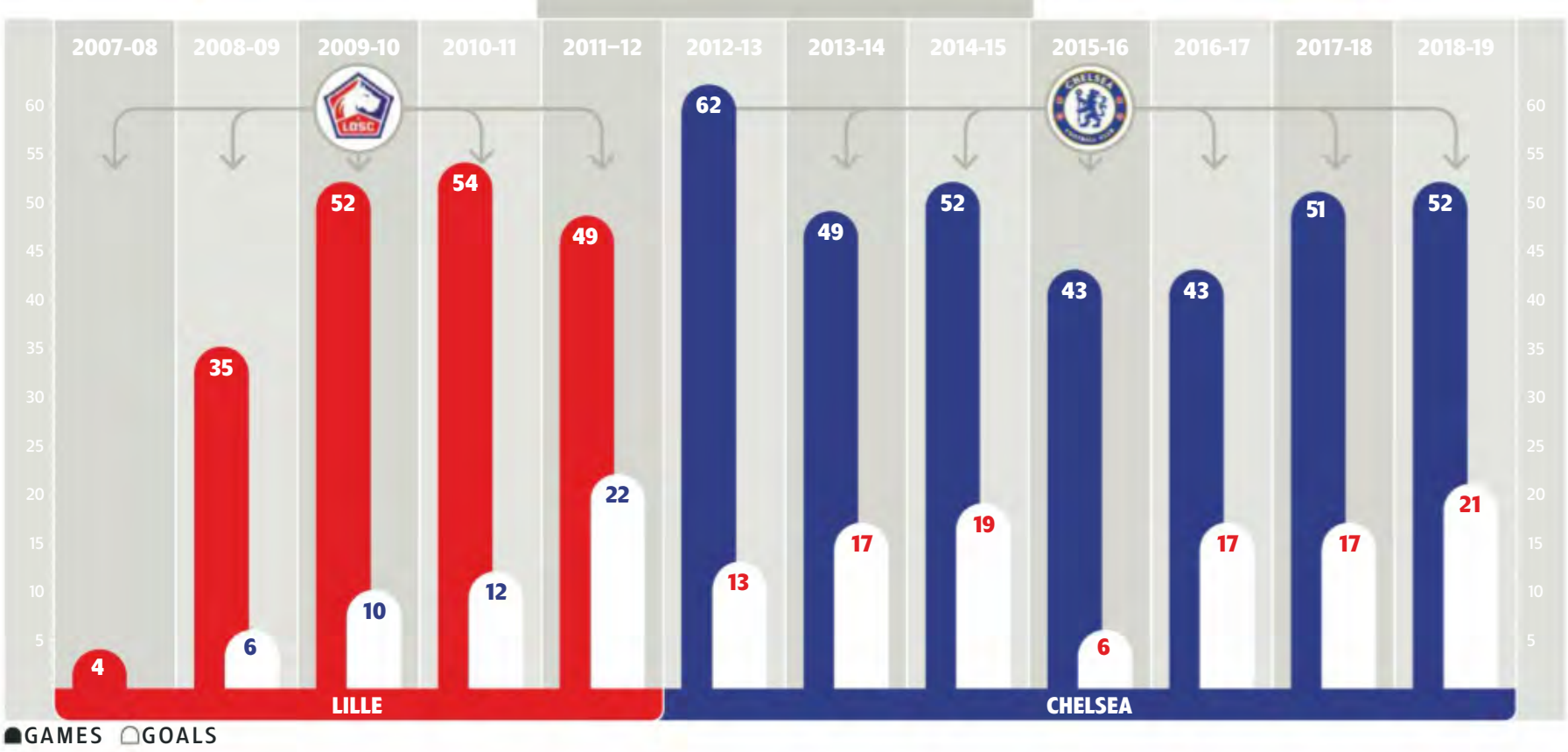
BELGIUM'S TOP INTERNATIONAL SCORERS

49 goals	Romelu Lukaku	(2010-present)
30	Eden Hazard	(2008-present)
30	Paul Van Himst	(1960-74)
30	Bernard Voorhoof	(1928-40)
28	Joseph Mermans	(1945-56)
28	Marc Wilmots	(1990-02)

HONOURS

2018 WORLD CUP PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

- GOLDEN BALL — Luka Modric (Croatia)
- SILVER BALL — Eden Hazard (Belgium)
- BRONZE BALL — Antoine Griezmann (France)



Glenn Moore

Long road to Wembley

A record 47 countries enter 2021 Euros

One sided... Montenegro can't stop Svenja Huth of Germany

The first goal on the road to Wembley 2021 and the Final of the Women's European Championship was scored in the Middle East by a 21-year-old Floridian who is at college in California.

Not very European you might think, but Keren Goor attended school and undertook army service in Israel – long regarded as being in Europe by football administrators – and it was in the Ramat Gan district of Tel Aviv that she scored Israel's opening goal against Italy.

The *Azzurre* eventually went on to win 3-2 in the first of nine opening-round victories in the nine ties played by those European nations who reached this year's Women's World Cup. Those results suggest that qualifying shocks will be rare as the continent's attention turns towards England and the Euro 2021 finals. Goals, however, will be frequent.

In that opening round, World Cup finalists Holland beat Estonia 7-0, Euro 2017 runners-up Denmark put eight past Malta without reply, while Bosnia-Herzegovina brushed aside Georgia 7-1. Norway beat Northern Ireland 6-0 and Belarus despatched Faroe Islands by the same score. Scotland beat Cyprus 8-0 and Czech Republic thrashed Moldova 7-0. Topping them all were Germany, who eviscerated Montenegro 10-0 and Ukraine 8-0.

The biggest surprise was that Italy only beat Israel and then Georgia by a single goal. Also unexpected was Northern Ireland's last-minute equaliser to earn a draw against Wales in Newport.

There will be 16 finalists, consisting of nine group winners and the three best runners-up, with the other runners-up going into a play-off round. Hosts England qualify automatically.

A record 47 nations entered the qualifying competition, including Cyprus and Kosovo for the first time.

The draw for the finals will be in London on January 22, 2021 with the tournament kicking off on July 11. The Final, on August 1, will be at the 90,000-seat Wembley with the other games shared between eight venues whose capacities range from 7,000 (Manchester City's academy stadium) to 32,702 (Sheffield United's Bramall Lane). Three further venues are 30,000-plus (Southampton, Brighton and Milton Keynes) but the other three are sub-20,000 (Brentford's new Lionel Road stadium, Rotherham United and Leigh Sports Village, where Manchester United women play).

Capacities are a tricky issue and the choice of stadia appears unambitious, but no UEFA Women's Championship has ever averaged more than 10,000 and the last finals, in Holland, while regarded as a huge success, had an average of 7,969.

When the Euros were last staged in England, in 2005, they were held exclusively in the north-west. But while the Lionesses drew 29,092 to the City of Manchester Stadium and 25,694 to Blackburn Rovers' Ewood Park, outside of the Final and England games the average gate was less than 2,500.

> "I have a vision that nobody else has. I've got bravery that no other coach has probably had"
>
> England's Phil Neville

Women's football has grown dramatically in England since then, especially when it comes to interest in the national team, and the Lionesses drew a peak of 11 million television viewers during this year's World Cup finals. And although regular domestic attendances remain small, the WSL season began with some spectacular gates at one-off matches at the Etihad and Stamford Bridge.

Late show...Ashley Hutton celebrates her injury-time equaliser for Northern Ireland against Wales

As those matches underlined, "big events" have a pulling power in the UK. At the 2012 London Olympics, every women's football match drew at least 10,000 and the Wembley Final pulled in 80,000-plus.

When it comes to promoting the event, Carly Telford is confident it will be done better than at the World Cup.

"The feedback from friends and families was that it wasn't well hosted," says the Lionesses goalkeeper. "A lot of the towns and cities weren't as kitted out or football-friendly as they needed to be.

"Walking around the cities there was no real guidance to where the stadiums were, where the fan zones were. There wasn't much in the fan zones. It was like a balloon that went up then deflated quite quickly.

"I don't know if we left a lot of a mark in France in terms of having a World Cup there. We fed it back to our guys. We were like, 'let's not do this in 2021 – let's not be like France'. That's no disrespect – when you're in a tournament it's fantastic, it's brilliant – but you've got to really make a big buzz about it."

The hosts' on-pitch preparations had

Finals venue...Leigh Sports Village

a bad start, with a 3-3 draw in Belgium and a 2-1 defeat in Norway. Between those games manager Phil Neville raised eyebrows when he said: "I have a vision that nobody else has. I've got bravery that no other coach has probably had. So, do you know what? Thank your lucky stars I'm here. I'm here to stay."

In print his words seem arrogant but his behaviour around England does not reflect that. Nevertheless, they have added to the focus on his own performance – on which the jury is still to deliver a verdict and will probably remain out until Euro 2021. WS

EURO 2021 KEY DATES

QUALIFYING	Aug 26, 2019-Sep 22, 2020
PLAY-OFFS	Oct 19-27, 2020
FINALS DRAW	Jan 22, 2021
FINALS STARTS	Jul 11, 2021
FINAL	Aug 1, 2021

Round -up

Record...the Manchester derby

BIG OPENING WEEKEND CROWDS

The UK attendance record for a domestic league match was shattered when 31,213 mostly paying spectators attended the first Manchester derby of the professional era held at the Etihad.

City beat United 1-0 to open the new FA WSL season. The following day 24,564 claimed free tickets to watch Chelsea beat Tottenham 1-0.

BARCA THRASH REAL – BUT NOT THE REAL REAL

The new Real Madrid women's team made the worst possible start to life, beaten 9-0 by Barcelona.

But, confusingly for historians, this was not the first *clásico femenino* as the Real team – though owned and funded by Real, wearing all white and playing at Real's training ground – are still known as CD Tacon.

The game at the 6,000-capacity Estadi Johan Cruyff drew 5,413 – which is double the gates being attracted at the ground by Barcelona B in the men's third tier.

Hat-trick...Lynn Williams (right)

COURAGE HIT THORNS AND PRIDE FOR SIX

A remarkable 6-0 victory for North Carolina Courage, stunning 17,517 Portland Thorns fans at Providence Park, put the reigning NWSL champions on course to successfully defend their regular-season title.

Courage, for whom Lynn Williams scored a hat-trick, followed up that victory with a 6-1 win over Orlando Pride three days later.

Big win... Barcelona's Aitana Bonmati

RACIST ROYALS FAN BANNED

A fan who racially abused Thorns US international goalkeeper Adrianna Franch at Utah Royals was banned from all matches in the National Women's Soccer League after being identified by the club. The fan was reported by other spectators to have used the n-word.

JUVENTUS OUT BUT LYON START DEFENCE IN STYLE

The heavyweight tie in the Women's Champions League round of 32 was won by Barcelona, knocking out Juventus 4-1 on aggregate. It was an easier start for Lyon, who began their defence with a 16-0 aggregate win over Russian champions Ryazan-VDC.

Wolfsburg put 15 past Mitrovica, of Kosovo, and Manchester City defeated Lugano 11-1. Bayern Munich, however, needed away goals in order to beat Kopparbergs/Goteborg.

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Big name...Alessandro Diamanti (in green)

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

Global diary

A comprehensive record of recent events around the world

Friday August 30

BOSNIA: Former international captain Emir Spahic is reported to be in a serious but stable condition following a car crash the previous evening near the town of Gacko in the south of the country.
FRANCE: Metz lose 2-0 at home to Paris Saint-Germain in a game that is briefly suspended due to a homophobic banner among home supporters – making it the second Ligue 1 game to be halted for such a reason in three days.
GERMANY: Timo Werner scores his first Bundesliga hat-trick as RB Leipzig maintain their 100 per cent start to the season with a 3-1 win at Borussia Monchengladbach.

Saturday August 31

COLOMBIA: With Envigado's opening goal in a 3-3 draw with Rionegro, Jhon Duran becomes the second youngest scorer of all time in the Colombian top tier at the age of 15 years and 261 days.
ENGLAND: Liverpool win 3-0 at Burnley to set a club record of 13 consecutive league victories.
GERMANY: Union Berlin win in the Bundesliga for the first time in their history, beating Borussia Dortmund 3-1.
HONG KONG: Reigning champions Tai Po begin the new league season with a 4-1 loss at home to R&F.
ITALY: Kalidou Koulibaly's own goal in injury time gifts Juventus a 4-3 victory after visitors Napoli had fought back from 3-0 down.
PORTUGAL: Sebastian Coates concedes three penalties and is sent off as Sporting lose 3-2 at home to Rio Ave.
SOUTH AFRICA: Molefi Ntseki, who has never played professionally or coached a top-flight club, is appointed national coach.
SPAIN: At 16 years and 304 days, Ansu Fati becomes Barcelona's youngest ever scorer in La Liga as they draw 2-2 at Osasuna.

Sunday September 1

ARGENTINA: River Plate and Boca Juniors draw 0-0 at El Monumental.
ENGLAND: Trailing 2-0 at home in the north London derby, Arsenal draw 2-2 with Tottenham Hotspur.
ITALY: Luiz Alberto gets a second-half equaliser as Lazio draw 1-1 in their home game against Roma.
SCOTLAND: Celtic end Rangers' 12-game unbeaten run and move three points clear of their Glasgow rivals at the top of the table with a 2-0 win at Ibrox.
SEYCHELLES: Dutch coach Jan Mak takes charge of Seychelles on an interim basis for a third time.
SPAIN: Gareth Bale is sent off in stoppage time after scoring twice to rescue a point for Real Madrid in a 2-2 draw away to Villarreal. Atletico Madrid come from 2-0 down to beat Eibar 3-2 and are now the only side with a 100 per cent record in La Liga.

Historic...Marius Bulter (right) celebrates with Union Berlin team-mate Christopher Trimmel after scoring against Borussia Dortmund

Monday September 2

FRANCE: Mauro Icardi joins Paris Saint-Germain on loan from Internazionale late in the day as the transfer window closes in France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

Tuesday September 3

ITALY: Juventus and Italy captain Giorgio Chiellini is ruled out for up to six months after undergoing surgery to reconstruct the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee.
RUSSIA: Premier League side Rostov are locked out of their Rostov Arena home over non-payment of rent last season.

Wednesday September 4

COSTA RICA: Gustavo Matosas reveals he will quit as national coach after this month's friendlies.
WORLD CUP ROUND-UP: The African qualifiers get under way with Djibouti causing an early upset, beating Eswatini 2-1 in the home leg of their first-round tie. Namibia, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau and Liberia also register wins.

Thursday September 5

ARGENTINA: Relegation-threatened Gimnasia y Esgrima appoint Diego Maradona as coach.
EURO ROUND-UP: Italy come from behind to beat Armenia, while Spain record a first-ever win in Romania, despite having Diego Llorente sent off.
QATAR: Almoez Ali makes it 12 goals in his last eight internationals

All square...River Plate's Cristian Ferreira (in white) and Sebastian Villa of Boca Juniors

with a hat-trick in Qatar's 6-0 victory over Afghanistan.

SOUTH AFRICA: Madagascar pull out of a friendly against South Africa on Saturday, blaming the outbreak of xenophobic violence in Johannesburg and Pretoria.

WORLD CUP ROUND-UP: In the opening round of Asian qualifiers, Palestine and Mongolia manage shock victories, beating Uzbekistan and Myanmar respectively. In Africa, Somalia beat Zimbabwe 1-0 for a first-ever win in the competition.

Friday September 6

CAMEROON: A two-time Africa Cup of Nations winner with Cameroon, Samuel Eto'o retires at the age of 38.

EURO ROUND-UP: Second-half sub Donyell Malen celebrates his first cap with a goal in Holland's 4-2 victory over Germany in Hamburg. Slovenia surprise Group G leaders Poland with a 2-0 win.

MEXICO: In a rematch of this year's ➤

Dream debut...Holland's Donyell Malen

Maldives

STEVE MENARY

Challenge...Maldives' Ibrahim Mahudhee (in red) taking on China

Delay does no harm

World Cup starts with a win despite lack of league action

For a team reliant on players from a disrupted domestic league that has barely begun, Maldives coach Petar Segrt was pretty pleased with his side's start to the World Cup qualifying campaign.

Segrt's squad travelled the 8,000km to Guam for their opening Group A game in the second round of Asian qualifying without five players. Goalkeeper Hussain Shareef and midfielder Hussain Nihan could not get visas, while two others did not travel due to personal reasons. However, the biggest loss was that of midfielder Ibrahim Waheed, who lost five members of his family in a tragic water-sports accident on the eve of departure.

Maldives won 1-0 with a goal from Ibrahim Mahudhee and afterwards the Croatian-born German coach said: "We won that game for Ibrahim, but we lost a lot of energy on the trip."

Segrt's charges were in action again five days later, playing at home to China and their 2006 World Cup-winning coach Marcello Lippi.

"We would have liked to make a point but we need to be realistic," admitted Segrt. "They have one of the best coaches in the world, but after 30 minutes he was a little surprised as the game was still 0-0."

The visitors, who were backed by a large travelling support, won 5-0 in the end but needed two second-half penalties and a 90th-minute goal from naturalized Brazilian Elkeson to secure victory against a dogged Maldives.

"We are very satisfied," added Segrt. "For players from a small country who have not trained for six months it was a big success."

The lack of match action is a sore point for Segrt, who arrived in the Maldives last year with former Georgia defender Gela Shekiladze as his assistant. And the duo immediately surpassed all expectations by winning the South Asian Cup, beating India 2-1 in the Final, only for the domestic game to come grinding to a halt.

"After the win last year, football was in a very good way," says Segrt. "In the country there was unbelievable euphoria about football. But then the liga stopped because there were money problems."

The delayed start of the local Dhiveni Premier League was perhaps no surprise given that political infighting meant FIFA had to appoint a normalisation committee to run the game as recently as 2014.

> "Six months complete break. For professional football it's very difficult and unbelievable" Petar Segrt

"Six months complete break," fumes Segrt at the memory. "For professional football it's very difficult and unbelievable."

July's Indian Ocean Games came only a month after a belated league kick-off and, to give game time to rusty young players on the fringes of the national team, Segrt and Shekiladze took a side of under-23 players to the tournament in Mauritius and lost all three games. "With only four days preparation for this tournament it was too short a time," admits Segrt.

At least he was able to take his team away to a training camp in Sri Lanka before the World Cup qualifiers, and despite the withdrawals and jet lag he remains happy with three points from two games.

With a trip to UAE to face Syria followed by games against Guam and Philippines at home, Segrt is hoping to sneak past China or Syria to grab a place in the next phase of qualifiers. WS

South America

TIM VICKERY

Colombia join World Cup chase

Uruguay's 2030 dream comes under threat

The South American bid to stage the 2030 World Cup is based on the idea of celebrating the centenary of the tournament. With the inaugural version having been held in Uruguay in 1930, there is an undoubted romantic appeal in going back to the source. However, with only one city of note, Uruguay could not possibly stage a modern World Cup on its own.

The obvious move, then, was to bring in Argentina as co-host. To widen the base of support, Chile and Paraguay have also been included in a campaign that has been up and running for a while.

But now there is a rival South American bid for 2030 being discussed.

Ecuador president Lenin Moreno is the man behind a tournament idea that would be shared with Colombia and Peru, and his Colombian counterpart, Ivan Duque, has already come out enthusiastically in favour of the plan – a very important step, since his country would surely stage the bulk of the matches.

South America hosted the World Cup as recently as 2014, which is later than the last tournaments in Western Europe or Africa, and there are plenty of other powerful contenders for 2030, such as China, a Spain-Portugal-Morocco bid and the UK.

With the principal strength of the Uruguay-Argentina-Chile-Paraguay bid being that it would celebrate the centenary back at the original venue, it is unclear how an Ecuador-Colombia-Peru campaign could be successful.

But maybe that is not the point...

It is possible that one of its objectives is precisely to ensure that 2030 does not go to South America at all – because once the centenary factor is removed the game changes for future bids.

A 2030 success for Uruguay, Argentina et al would put all the other South American countries right to the back of the queue and it would be decades before the tournament could return. And by rights, Colombia can claim that they should be the next in line.

Presidential backing...Ivan Duque (left) and Lenin Moreno

Uruguay had 1930, Chile 1962, Argentina 1978 and Brazil have hosted twice. True, the 1986 World Cup was due to go to Colombia, but that decision was clearly premature and, under pressure, they gave up and the tournament was switched to Mexico. Fast forward more than three decades and things now look very different.

With its urban centres and well developed internal air market, Colombia looks much more like a potential host and its successful staging of the 2011 Under-20 World Cup was generally seen as a mini rehearsal.

Ecuador is well suited to being a partner but Peru looks more problematic. A lack of government support led to the country being stripped of this year's Under-17 World Cup and the Sudamericana Cup Final. But, in reality, the bid would be mostly focused on Colombia – which, with 2030 out of the way, would see itself as the next South American candidate.

It is highly likely that part of the thinking behind this idea is to split the continental vote to ensure 2030 goes elsewhere. In the shorter term, there is the chance that Ecuador and Colombia might look

Warm-up...James Rodriguez of Colombia (centre) celebrates at the 2011 Under-20 World Cup in his homeland

for concessions in order to give up their 2030 bid.

The stresses between the north and the south of the continent are apparent in the fight over next year's Copa America, an extra tournament held as part of the transition from odd to even years.

Argentina wanted it as part of the 2030 campaign. Feeling snubbed, Colombia protested, and as a result the Copa will be co-hosted between two countries at opposite ends of South America. A six-hour flight separates Buenos Aires from Bogota; and Barranquilla, the likely venue of the Final, adds on almost another two hours of flight time.

The format necessary in such circumstances borders on insanity. There will be two groups of six and the finalists, in a 12-team tournament, will play a total of eight matches. In a 32-team World Cup they only play seven.

The players, it would seem, are being sacrificed on the altar of political in-fighting. WS

It is unclear how an Ecuador-Colombia-Peru campaign could be successful. But maybe that is not the point...

➤ CONCACAF Gold Cup Final, Mexico beat the USA 3-0.

Saturday September 7

ENGLAND: Watford sack Javi Gracia and reappoint Quique Sanchez Flores as manager.
EURO ROUND-UP: Jonathan Ikone comes off the bench to score on his debut as France beat Albania 4-1. Reigning champions Portugal win 4-2 in Serbia, while hosts Turkey need an 89th-minute goal from Ozan Tufan to beat Andorra.

Sunday September 8

EGYPT: Zamalek beat Pyramids 3-0 to retain the Egyptian Cup.
EURO ROUND-UP: Liechtenstein achieve a 1-1 draw in Greece, while Denmark are held to a goalless draw away to Georgia. Bosnia's 4-2 defeat in Armenia sees coach Robert Prosinecki resign.
ITALY: Palermo set a Serie D record as 17,000 fans watch them beat San Tommaso 3-2 in their first home game since bankruptcy.
SPAIN: Sergio Ramos equals Iker Casillas' national record with his 167th cap as Spain beat Faroe Islands 4-0.
URUGUAY: Liverpool win their first major silverware, beating city rivals River Plate of Montevideo on penalties after a 2-2 draw in the Final of the Torneo Intermedio.
WORLD CUP ROUND-UP: Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia and Tanzania go through to the second round of African qualifiers.

Monday September 9

CURACAO: Having fallen ill the night before, 31-year-old keeper Jairzinho Pieter dies from unknown causes in the team hotel prior to Curacao's CONCACAF Nations League match in Haiti.
EURO ROUND-UP: Azerbaijan claim their first point of the qualifiers with a 1-1 draw at home to World Cup finalists Croatia. Holland beat Estonia to record back-to-back wins for the first time under coach Ronald Koeman.
NORTHERN IRELAND: Steven Davis wins his 112th cap and equals Aaron Hughes' national record for an outfield player as Northern Ireland lose 2-0 to Germany.

Tuesday September 10

CHINA: Brazil-born striker Elkeson scores twice on his debut to give China a 5-0 win over Maldives in a World Cup qualifier.
FRANCE: The president of the French Football Federation, Noel Le Graet, tells referees they should no longer stop games for homophobic abuse from fans, a stance France's sports minister calls "wrong".
PERU: Luis Abram scores the only goal in Los Angeles as Peru end Brazil's 17-match unbeaten run.
WORLD CUP ROUND-UP: Guinea-Bissau reach the second round in Africa for the first time, while Djibouti advance after avoiding defeat in an away World Cup qualifier for the first time. Rwanda set a new record for a World Cup qualifying aggregate winning margin in Africa by beating Seychelles 10-0 over two legs.

Wednesday September 11

BELGIUM: Football agent Christophe Henrotay is arrested as part of an investigation into money laundering and corruption in transfers, with Aleksandar Mitrovic's 2015 move from Anderlecht to Newcastle United one of those being looked at.
BRAZIL: A Bruno Guimaraes goal gives Athletico Paranaense a 1-0 win over Internacional in their home leg of the Brazilian Cup Final.
SCOTLAND: Fort William end a 29-month run without a win in the Highland League by beating Clachnacuddin 1-0.
SPAIN: Valencia sack coach Marcelino just three games into the new Liga season and replace him with Albert Celades.
USA: Minnesota United's 2-0 loss at Houston Dynamo means Los Angeles are Western Conference champions for the first time and will play in the 2020 CONCACAF Champions League.

Thursday September 12

BELGIUM: Former Anderlecht executive Herman Van Holsbeeck is the latest person to be arrested in the ongoing investigation surrounding player transfers.
KUWAIT: National coach Romeo Jozak steps down following a 3-0 loss to Australia.

Friday September 13

CAMEROON: Samuel Eto'o's son, Etienne Eto'o Pineda, is called up to Cameroon's initial squad for the Under-17 World Cup in Brazil.

Saturday September 14

ENGLAND: Manchester City lose in the league for the first time since January, doing down 3-2 away at Norwich City.
FRANCE: Booed by his own fans throughout his first game for Paris Saint-Germain this season after trying to engineer a summer move back to Barcelona, Neymar ➤

➤ scores an injury-time overhead-kick winner against Strasbourg.
GERMANY: Bundesliga leaders RB Leipzig come from behind to draw 1-1 with champions Bayern Munich.
HOLLAND: Donyell Malen gets all five goals as PSV beat Vitesse 5-0.
ITALY: Juventus draw 0-0 with Fiorentina and lose top spot in Serie A for the first time since March 3, 2018 – a total of 560 days. Internazionale, who beat Udinese 1-0, replace them.
SPAIN: Eden Hazard makes his Real Madrid debut as a sub in a 3-1 victory over Levante. On his first start, 16-year-old Ansu Fati scores after just two minutes as Barcelona beat Valencia 5-2.
UAE: Defending league champions Sharjah beat Al Ahli Dubai on penalties to win the Super Cup after a goalless 90 minutes.

Sunday September 15

FRANCE: Marseille come from two goals down to beat Monaco 4-3.
ITALY: Italian TV pundit Luciano Passirani is suspended for making on-air racist comments regarding Internazionale's Romelu Lukaku.
HOLLAND: Coming on as a 56th-minute sub for his debut, and with his new team-mates losing 2-1, Reza Ghoochannejhad scores four times as PEC Zwolle come back to beat RKC Waalwijk 6-2.
SINGAPORE: Hougang United's 4-4 draw with Geylang International means DPMM are Singapore Premier League champions for a second time.
USA: Zlatan Ibrahimovic's hat-trick in LA Galaxy's 7-2 victory over Sporting Kansas City sets a new club record of 26 MLS goals in a regular season.

Monday September 16

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Qatar's Al Sadd bounce back from a 3-1 first-leg loss in the quarter-finals to beat Al Nassr of Saudi Arabia 4-3 on aggregate.
ENGLAND: A High Court rules that Kevin McCabe must sell his 50 per cent stake in Premier League side Sheffield United to Prince Abdullah. who owns the other 50 per cent.
GERMANY: St Pauli win their first derby on home soil for 59 years, beating Hamburg 2-0 at Millerntor-Stadion in Bundesliga 2.

Tuesday September 17

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Urawa Red Diamonds draw 1-1 at home to Shanghai SIPG to win on away

Asia

JOHN DUERDEN

The weaker nations close the gap

Continent's World Cup qualifiers get underway

There were maybe just 4,000 fans at the Ulaanbaatar Stadium in Mongolia in early September, but that was still four times the usual attendance. And those who made it saw much to get excited about as, in the country's first-ever appearance in the second round of qualification for a World Cup, there was a 1-0 win over Myanmar. That was then followed by a hard-fought, and in some ways even more impressive, 1-0 reverse against a talented and physical Tajikistan.

In an exciting international break in Asia these two games were another sign that the weaker members of the world's biggest continent are improving.

Reaching the group stage is crucial as the tournament determines qualification for Qatar 2022 and the 2023 Asian Cup. Defeat in the first round – as experienced by such as Pakistan, Timor Leste and Bhutan – means no competitive game for four years. Instead, Mongolia now have eight games in Group F – including home and away fixtures against Japan.

Football is far from the most

Name game...Ai Kesen, previously Elkesen

goals after the tie finishes 3-3 on aggregate. They are joined in the semi-finals by Al Hilal who beat fellow Saudi side Al Ittihad 3-1.

UEFA CHAMP LEAGUE: Liverpool are the first holders in 25 years to lose their first game in defence of the trophy, losing 2-0 at Napoli. Internazionale need a 92nd-minute equaliser to avoid defeat at home to Slavia Prague, while Red Bull Salzburg thrash Genk 6-2 and Chelsea miss a late penalty as they lose 1-0 at home to Valencia.

Wednesday September 18

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Two-time winners Guangzhou eliminate defending champions Kashima Antlers on away goals after a 1-1 draw in Japan.

BRAZIL: Athletico Paranaense win the Brazilian Cup for the first time, beating Internacional 3-1 on aggregate and claim a place in the group stage of the 2020 Libertadores Cup.

FRANCE: The French League Cup will be suspended from next season with its European place going to Ligue 1 instead.

HOLLAND: Kelvin Maynard of fifth-tier side Alphense Boys is shot dead in Amsterdam.

MEXICO: Cruz Azul win the first-ever Leagues Cup – a tournament for MLS and Liga MX clubs – beating Tigres 2-1 in the Final.

SUDAMERICANA CUP: Gabriel Torres scores both first-leg goals as Independiente del Valle beat Corinthians in their semi-final.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: In the opening group games, Paris Saint-Germain beat Real Madrid 3-0 and Juventus drew 2-2 at Atletico Madrid. Atalanta lose 4-0 to Dinamo Zagreb on their debut in the competition, while Lokomotiv Moscow pull off a surprise 2-1 victory in Germany against Bayer Leverkusen.

Thursday September 19

ENGLAND: Former Newcastle United academy coach Peter Beardsley is banned from all football-related activity for eight months after being found guilty of using racist and abusive language.

EUROPA LEAGUE: Runners-up last season, Arsenal begin this term's competition with a 3-0 win away to Eintracht Frankfurt. There are upsets as Lazio lose 2-1 to CFR Cluj and Wolfsberger beat Borussia Monchengladbach 4-0.

SUDAMERICANA CUP: Colon come ➤

Creditable...Yemen's Mudir Al Radaei (in white) challenges Ikhsan Fandi of Singapore

popular sport in Mongolia, a huge country with a population of just three million that is far more interested in wrestling, archery and horse-riding. Facilities are scarce and, with the temperature dipping below freezing on early September nights, it is a challenge to get the game in the headlines.

But the situation is even worse in Yemen, where war has ravaged the nation for most of this decade and the absence of a football league for five years pales into insignificance when compared to the human tragedy and loss of life in the country.

Those players unlucky enough not to play overseas have had to find jobs and the national team plays its home games elsewhere, which makes qualifying for any international tournament difficult.

Yemen began their Group D campaign with a creditable 2-2 draw in Singapore, before a "home" game in Bahrain against Saudi Arabia. And with the regime in Riyadh heavily involved in the war in Yemen, the meeting was more than just a crucial qualifier against one of Asia's powerhouses.

In eight prior meetings between the two nations, Yemen had failed to score a single goal, but this time around they took the lead twice before having to settle for a 2-2 draw.

Singapore have struggled in recent years but they followed up the draw against Yemen with a fine 2-1 victory over Palestine, a surprise in Asian football terms as Palestine had previously beaten Hector Cuper's highly fancied Uzbekistan.

Malaysia, meanwhile, added to some encouraging performances at youth level with a win that will be remembered for some time on their side of the Strait of Malacca. Facing bitter rivals Indonesia, Malaysia won 3-2 watched by a crowd of 80,000 in Jakarta in a game marred by crowd trouble. Before the Malaysian players could start their post-match celebrations they had to be taken from the stadium inside an armoured personnel carrier.

And then there were the big guns who sat out the first matchday but were involved in the second, all of them playing away from home. South Korea, Australia, Iran and Japan all won, as did China, who beat the Maldives 5-0.

War has ravaged Yemen for most of this decade and the absence of a football league for five years pales into insignificance when compared to the human tragedy and loss of life

China have only played at one World Cup before, back in 2002, and are desperate to return. That much was obvious just by looking at the teamsheet, which contained the name of debutant Ai Kesen. Better known as Elkeson, the 30 year-old Brazilian became a Chinese citizen in August – having met FIFA's five-year residency requirements after arriving in the Chinese Super League in 2013 – and scored the last two goals.

If Elkeson is a surprise addition, then early coaching dismissals are par for the course.

Back in international competition for the first time since their two-year ban ended in December 2017, Kuwait thrashed Nepal 7-0. But that was followed by a 3-0 loss at home to Australia that saw Croatian coach Romeo Jozak sent packing.

And Uzbekistan's loss to Palestine resulted in Cuper's dismissal, with former boss Vadim Abramov taking charge once more. WS

Back...Kuwait's Bader Al Mutawa holds off Bimal Gharti Magar of Nepal

➤ from behind to beat Atletico Mineiro 2-1 in their semi-final home leg.
VIETNAM: Hanoi claim their fifth V.League championship, with two games to spare, with a 1-0 victory away at Song Lam Nghe An.

Friday September 20

AFGHANISTAN: Toofan Harirod retain the Afghan Premier League, beating Shaheen Asmayee 1-0 in the knockout Final with an extra-time goal from Hatam Shirdil.
EGYPT: Al Ahly beat Zamalek 3-2 to win the Egypt Super Cup.

Saturday September 21

ENGLAND: Manchester City score five times in the first 18 minutes as they thrash bottom-of-the-league Watford 8-0.
GERMANY: Robert Lewandowski makes it nine goals in just five Bundesliga games as Bayern Munich beat Cologne 4-0. RB Leipzig win 3-0 at Werder Bremen to remain top of the table.
ITALY: Aaron Ramsey scores on his Serie A debut as Juventus come from behind to beat Verona 2-1. Second-half goals from Marcelo Brozovic and Romelu Lukaku give Internazionale a 2-0 win in the derby against Milan.
SPAIN: Promoted Granada win 2-0 at home to Barcelona and go top of La Liga.
UZBEKISTAN: Pakhtakor seal the championship with a 12th successive win in the Uzbekistan Super League, beating Metallurg Bekabad 2-1 for a record-extending 12th domestic title.

Sunday September 22

BELGIUM: Club Brugge beat Anderlecht 2-1 and stay second in the table, a point behind Standard Liege with a game in hand.
ENGLAND: Liverpool win 2-1 at Chelsea to maintain their 100 per cent start in the Premier League.
GREECE: PAOK and Olympiakos drop points for the first time this season, drawing their local derbies 2-2 and 1-1 against Aris and Panathinaikos respectively.
HOLLAND: PSV and Ajax draw 1-1 to maintain their unbeaten starts to the Eredivisie campaign.
IRAN: Ali Karimi misses a penalty in the first half and is then sent off for a second yellow card in the 89th minute as Esteghlal lose 1-0 to Persepolis in the Tehran derby.
SCOTLAND: Celtic beat Kilmarnock 3-1 to make it six wins from six league games, while Hearts move off the bottom of the table with ➤

Australia

SIMON HILL

A-League soap opera continues

Clubs take charge as league expands

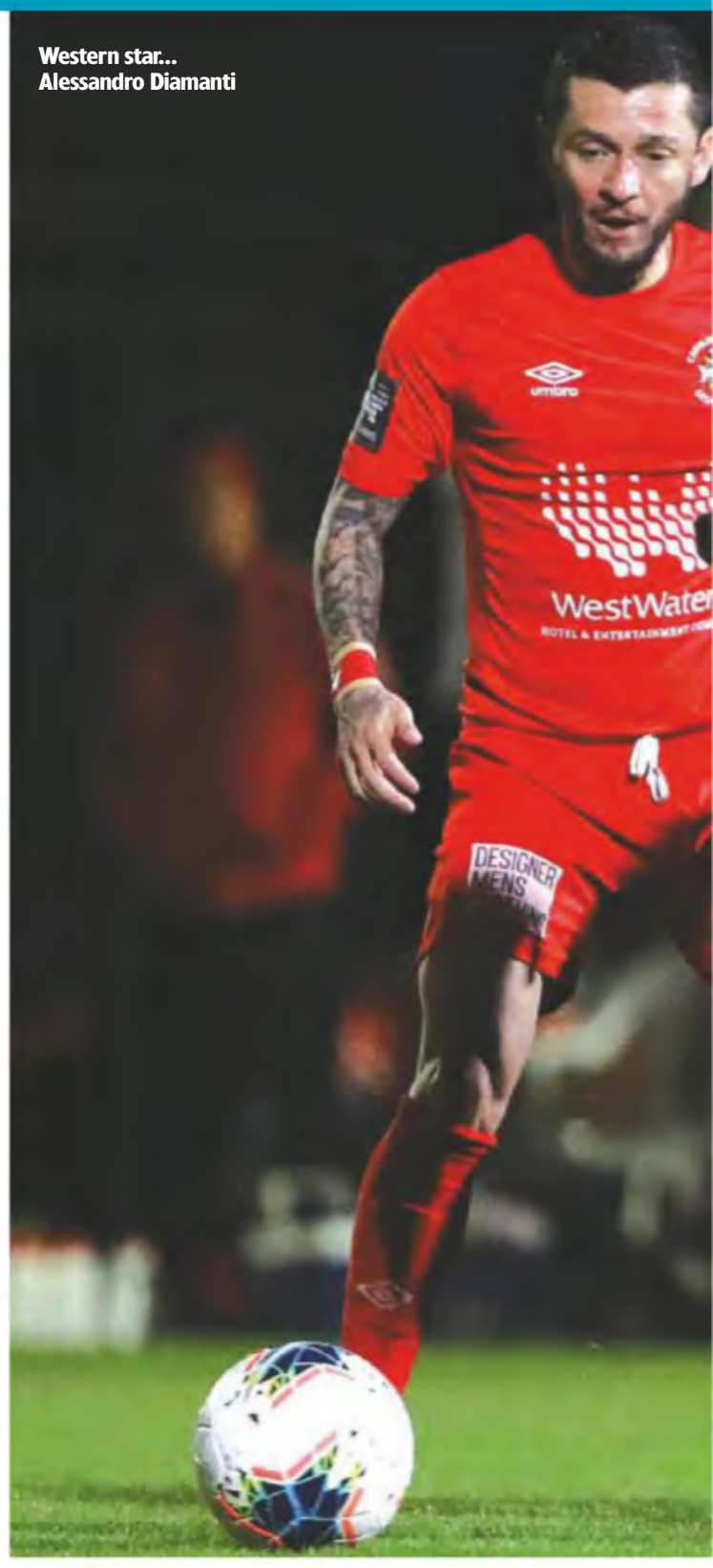
From the highs of 61,000 fans attending a Sydney derby in 2016 and the buzz over the arrival of Alessandro Del Piero four years earlier, to the deep troughs that have seen the demise of two expansion clubs after just two and three seasons respectively, the soap opera that is Australia's A-League sets out on its 15th season with the clubs themselves now running the competition.

After three years of political in-fighting with the clubs battling Football Federation Australia for control – fought mostly over securing a larger slice of the television money – the A-League simply cannot afford another year of stagnation.

To that end, the league has expanded from 10 clubs to 11 this season, with a further team to be added in 12 months' time.

This year's newcomer is the rather ambiguously named Western United. The Victorian franchise won one of two expansion tickets – Sydney-based Macarthur FC will join next season – largely on the back of plans to build a new 15,000-capacity football-specific stadium in Tarneit. But the stadium won't be ready for around three years, so in the interim United will play mainly at GMHBA Stadium in Geelong.

The club's inaugural coach, Mark Rudan, has put together an interesting side, the star of which is Alessandro Diamanti, who was part of the Italy squad that reached the Final of Euro 2012.



Western star... Alessandro Diamanti

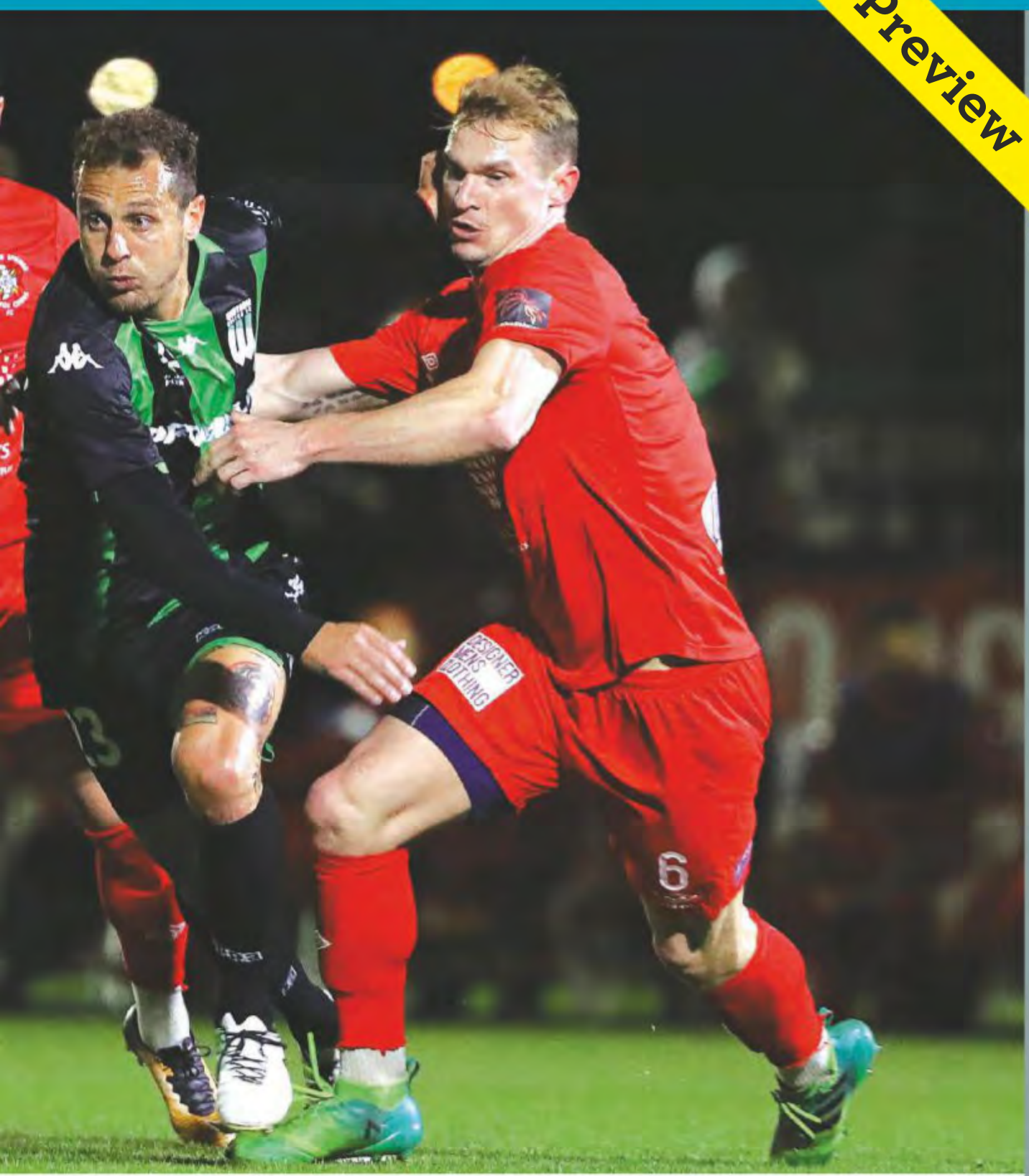
With other high-profile arrivals including Greece international Panagiotis Kone and ex-Celtic striker Scott McDonald, Rudan expected his team to be competitive. Less clear is what sort of crowds they will be able to draw to Geelong, which is some 54km from where the new stadium will be located.

Roar boss... Robbie Fowler

Last year's champions Sydney have lost skipper Alex Brosque, who has retired, and big-name imports Siem De Jong and Reza Ghoochannejhad. Kosta Barbarouses has arrived from Melbourne Victory, along with Luke Brattan from Melbourne City and Alexander Baumjohann, who was deemed surplus to requirements at local rivals Western Sydney Wanderers.

Perth Glory have lost three key players from the squad that reached last year's Grand Final, with Jason Davidson joining K-League side Ulsan Hyundai, Andy Keogh moving to Saudi Arabia with Al Qadsiah and Shane Lowry signing for Qatar's Al Ahli. In their place, Tony

Preview



Popovic has brought in Bruno Fornaroli from Melbourne City, South Korean defender Kim Soo-beom from Jeju United and Swiss under-21 international Gregory Wuthrich from Young Boys.

Robbie Fowler's arrival as Brisbane Roar coach arguably generated more interest than any player moves during the close season, but the jury is out as to whether the Liverpool legend has recruited smartly, opting for a raft of lower-league players from England.

Fowler's reign started well, with victory over Sydney in the FFA Cup, but his side went out on penalties in the next round to last year's stragglers, Central Coast Mariners.

Western Sydney Wanderers return to their spiritual home in Parramatta, which should help to deliver a better season than of late. The new BankWest Stadium has safe standing areas for their notoriously noisy fans and a $20million investment in a state-of-the-art training ground means Markus Babbel and his players will want for nothing this term.

Melbourne Victory are one of several clubs under new leadership, with Marco Kurz arriving from Adelaide United. Kurz has repatriated Socceroos Robbie Kruse and Andrew Nabbout, and signed Danish midfielder Jakob Poulsen.

Neighbours City replaced Warren Joyce with French coach Erick Mombaerts, while cup holders Adelaide plumped for Holland's Gertjan Verbeek to replace Kurz. Wellington Phoenix appointed Ufuk Talay, who was formerly number two to Steve Corica at Sydney, as Mark Rudan's successor.

In Gosford, Alen Stajcic has more modest targets than most in trying to rebuild Central Coast Mariners. After three wooden spoons in four years, anything but last place will be seen as progress.

Newcastle Jets, meanwhile, were left shocked by the decision of young starlet Joey Champness to put his football career on hold. Champness was on track to go to the Tokyo Olympics with the Australian under-23 side, but has instead chosen to pursue a career as a rapper in the United States under the moniker JOWIC.

There is rarely a dull moment in the soap opera that is the A-League... WS

KEY DATES

Regular season starts	**Oct 11, 2019**
Regular season ends	**Apr 26, 2020**
Play-offs start	**May 1, 2020**
Grand Final	**May 16/17, 2020**

➤ a 2-1 win at Hibernian.

Monday September 23

FIFA: Lionel Messi is the Best FIFA Men's Player for a sixth time, while Megan Rapinoe receives the women's award. Jurgen Klopp and Jill Ellis are named best coaches.
GERMANY: Wolfsburg remain unbeaten in the Bundesliga this season following a 1-1 draw at home to Hoffenheim.
PORTUGAL: Famalicao win 2-1 at Sporting to stay top of the table.
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: Dundalk beat Shamrock Rovers 3-2 to secure back-to-back titles and make it five league championships in the last six years.

Tuesday September 24

ENGLAND: League Two Colchester United beat Tottenham Hotspur on penalties in the League Cup, while Southampton win 4-0 way at arch-rivals Portsmouth.
SPAIN: Lionel Messi makes his 400th start in La Liga but comes off injured at half-time as Barcelona beat Villarreal 2-1.

Wednesday September 25

CANADA: Montreal Impact win the Canadian Championship, beating Toronto on penalties after a 1-1 draw on aggregate in the Final.
ENGLAND: Bournemouth, Sheffield United and West Ham United go out of the League Cup to third-tier sides Burton Albion, Sunderland and Oxford United respectively.
FRANCE: Paris Saint-Germain lose at home in the league for the first time since May 2018, going down 2-0 to Reims, but remain top of the league on goal difference.
HOLLAND: Ajax beat Fortuna Sittard 5-0 to lead the Eredivisie on goal difference.
ITALY: Internazionale return to the top of Serie A with a 1-0 victory at home to Lazio.
SPAIN: Real Madrid continue their unbeaten start to the Liga season by beating Osasuna 2-0 to return to the top of the table. Ex-Barcelona captain Carles Puyol says he has rejected the chance to rejoin the club as sporting director.
SUDAMERICANA CUP: A 2-2 draw against Corinthians sees Independiente del Valle through to the Final.
SWITZERLAND: Basle remain top of the Super League with a 4-0 win at home to Zurich.
USA: Los Angeles beat Houston Dynamo 3-1 to win the Supporters' Shield for the best regular-season record in MLS. WS

Internationals

2022 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

AFRICA SECTION
(5 finals places available)

1st round
1st legs

Sep 4 - Bujumbura
Burundi 1 (Amissi 81)
Tanzania 1 (Msuva 85)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ntale (Tog)

Sep 4 - Djibouti
Djibouti 2 (Mahabeh pen 45+4, Hamza 74)
Eswatini 1 (S Mamba 56)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Belakhouas (Tun)

Sep 4 - Asmara
Eritrea 1 (Suleiman 65)
Namibia 2 (Shalulile 50, E Tesfay og 58)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Moussa (Ngr)

Sep 4 - Bahir Dar
Ethiopia 0
Lesotho 0
Ref: Maarouf (Egy)

Sep 4 - Paynesville
Liberia 3 (Terrence Tisdell pen 18, Sangare pen 82, S Johnson 88)
Sierra Leone 1 (Quee 56)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Houngnandande (Ben)

Sep 4 - Belle Vue Maurel
Mauritius 0
Mozambique 1 (Telinho 10)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Gatogato (Brd)

Sep 4 - Sao Tome
Sao Tome e Principe 0
Guinea-Bissau 1 (Joseph Mendes pen 85)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Goma (Ang)

Sep 4 - Omdurman, Sudan
South Sudan 1 (Kata og 75)
Equatorial Guinea 1 (Meseguer 35)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Huraywidah (Lby)

Sep 5 - N'Djamena
Chad 1 (N'Douassel pen 85)
Sudan 3 (Agab 13, 67, 74)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Konate (Gui)

Sep 5 - Victoria
Seychelles 0
Rwanda 3 (Hakizimana 32, Mukunzi 36, Kagere 80)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Tadesse (Eth)

Sep 5 - Djibouti, Djibouti
Somalia 1 (Shakunda 86)
Zimbabwe 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Armi (Chd)

Sep 6 - Moroni
Comoros 1 (Djoudja 49)
Togo 1 (Laba 34)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Sasii (Tan)

Sep 6 - Bakau
Gambia 0
Angola 1 (Gaspar 31)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Adebimpe (Nga)

Sep 7 - Francistown
Botswana 0
Malawi 0
Ref: Ogwayo (Ken)

2nd legs

Sep 8 - Malabo
Equatorial Guinea 1 (Nsue 72)
South Sudan 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ismail (Sud)
Equatorial Guinea 2-1 on agg

Sep 8 - Maseru
Lesotho 1 (Seturumane 56)
Ethiopia 1 (Lerotholi og 50)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Nkounkou (Con)
Agg1-1, Ethiopia on away goals

Sep 8 - Freetown
Sierra Leone 1 (K Kamara 55)
Liberia 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ouattara (BuF)
Liberia 3-2 on agg

Sep 8 - Dar es Salaam
Tanzania 1 (Samatta 29)
Burundi 1 (Abdul Razak 45+2)
Aet. **HT:** 1-1. **90mins:** 1-1. **Ref:** Matemera (Zim)
Agg 2-2, Tanzania 3-0 on pens

Sep10 - Luanda
Angola 2 (Geraldo 41, Abreu 68)
Gambia 1 (Ceesay 65)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ganamandji (CAR)
Angola 3-1 on agg

Sep10 - Manzini
Eswatini 0
Djibouti 0
Ref: Dahane (Mra)
Djibouti 2-1 on agg

Sep10 - Bissau
Guinea-Bissau 2 (Joseph Mendes 66, 77)
Sao Tome e Principe 1 (Iniesta 11)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Williams (SLe)
Guinea-Bissau 3-1 on agg

Sep10 - Blantyre
Malawi 1 (Phiri pen 81)
Botswana 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Djama (Dji)
Malawi1-0 on agg

Sep10 - Maputo
Mozambique 2 (Clesio 6, Catamo pen 77)
Mauritius 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Miiro (Uga)
Mozambique 3-0 on agg

Sep10 - Windhoek
Namibia 2 (Iimbondi 25, Shalulile 90+2)
Eritrea 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Danon (IvC)
Namibia 4-1 on agg

Sep10 - Kigali
Rwanda 7 (Bizimana 16, Kagere 27, 51, Tuyisenge 29, 34, Mukunzi 57, Hakizimana 79)
Seychelles 0
HT: 4-0. **Ref:** Mogos (Eri)
Rwanda10-0 on agg

Sep10 - Omdurman
Sudan 0
Chad 0
Ref: Fred (Sey)
Sudan 3-1 on agg

Sep10 - Lome
Togo 2 (M'Dahoma og 10, Sunu 71)
Comoros 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Atcho (Gab)
Togo 3-1 on agg

Sep10 - Harare
Zimbabwe 3 (Munetsi 77, Muskwe 86, Billiat 90+2)
Somalia 1 (O A Mohamed 85)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Rakotojaona (Mad)
Zimbabwe 3-2 on agg

● *The winning teams have qualified for the 2nd rnd, which the teams ranked1-26 enter directly*

ASIA SECTION
(4.5 finals places available, not including the automatic place for hosts Qatar)

2nd round[1]
Group A

Sep 5 - Dededo
Guam 0
Maldives 1 (Mahudhee 27)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 714. **Ref:** Al Hammadi (UAE)
Sent off: S Nicklaw (Guam) 81

Sep 5 - Bacolod
Philippines 2 (Patino 6, Mike Ott 83)
Syria 5 (Al Somah 14, 55, Mobayed 30, Al Khatib pen 48, Al Mawas 85)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 2,645. **Ref:** Iida (Jap)

Sep10 - Dededo
Guam 1 (Lopez pen 67)
Philippines 4 (Guirado 7, Reichelt 12, Schrock 71, Strauss 82)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 1,096. **Ref:** Kim Woo-sung (SKo)

Sep10 - Male
Maldives 0
China 5 (Wu Xi 34, Wu Lei 45, Yang Xu pen 64, Elkeson pen 83, 90+1)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 3,700. **Ref:** Al Khudhayr (Sau)
Sent off: Ghani (Maldives) 82

WORLD CUP QUALS: ASIA – 2ND RND: GP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
China	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
Syria	1	1	0	0	5	2	3
Philippines	2	1	0	1	6	6	3
Maldives	2	1	0	1	1	5	3
Guam	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Group B

Sep 5 - Kuwait City
Kuwait 7 (Nasser 6, 50, Al Hajeri 13, Mawei 59, Al Mutawa 67, Abujabarah 90+4, Al Musawi 90+7)
Nepal 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 7,500. **Ref:** Kim Dae-yong (SKo)

Sep 5 - Taipei
Taiwan 1 (Wen Chih-hao 81)
Jordan 2 (Faisal 19, Samir 37)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 5,520. **Ref:** Araki (Jap)

Sep10 - Kuwait City
Kuwait 0
Australia 3 (Leckie 7, 30, Mooy 38)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 11,852. **Ref:** Bin Jahari (Sin)

Sep10 - Taipei
Taiwan 0
Nepal 2 (Bista 4, 62)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,780. **Ref:** Abdul Baki (Oma)

WORLD CUP QUALS: ASIA – 2ND RND: GP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kuwait	2	1	0	1	7	3	3
Australia	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Jordan	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Nepal	2	1	0	1	2	7	3
Taiwan	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Group C

Sep 5 - Riffa
Bahrain 1 (Al Aswad 9)
Iraq 1 (M Ali 85)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,049. **Ref:** Al Yaqoubi (Oma)

Sep 5 - Phnom Penh
Cambodia 1 (Keo 33)
Hong Kong 1 (Tan Chun Lok 16)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 45,500. **Ref:** Tantashev (Uzb)

Sep10 - Phnom Penh
Cambodia 0
Bahrain 1 (Al Aswad 78)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Gamini (Sri)

Sep10 - Hong Kong
Hong Kong 0
Iran 2 (Azmoun 23, Ansarifard 54)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 13,942. **Ref:** Yamamoto (Jap)

WORLD CUP QUALS: ASIA – 2ND RND: GP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bahrain	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Iran	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Iraq	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Cambodia	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Hong Kong	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

Group D

Sep 5 - Al Ram
Palestine 2 (Dabbagh 60, Batran 85)
Uzbekistan 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,740. **Ref:** Fu (Chn)

Sep 5 - Kallang
Singapore 2 (Ikhsan 27, Faris 52)
Yemen 2 (Al Matari 34, Mohammed Hasan 45)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 7,018. **Ref:** Evans (Aus)

Sep10 - Kallang
Singapore 2 (Shakir 3, Safuwan 38)
Palestine 1 (Hamed 13)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 6,011. **Ref:** Yu (Tai)

Sep10 - Riffa, Bahrain
Yemen 2 (Mohammed Hasan 8, Al Dahi 37)
Saudi Arabia 2 (Bahebri 23, Al Dawsari 48)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 3,100. **Ref:** Pu-udom (Tha)

WORLD CUP QUALS: ASIA – 2ND RND: GP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Singapore	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Palestine	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Yemen	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
Saudi Arabia	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Uzbekistan	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Group E

Sep 5 - Guwahati
India 1 (Chhetri 24)
Oman 2 (Al Alawi 82, 90)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,798. **Ref:** Bonyadifard (Irn)

Sep 5 - Doha
Qatar 6 (Almoez Ali 4, 10, 51, Al Haidos 13, A Hassan 34, Khoukhi 67)
Afghanistan 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 10,950. **Ref:** Asimov (Uzb)

Sep10 - Dushanbe, Tajikistan
Afghanistan 1 (Noor 27)
Bangladesh 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Zhang (Chn)

Sep10 - Doha
Qatar 0
India 0
Att: 12,020. **Ref:** Nasaruddin (Mly)

WORLD CUP QUALS: ASIA – 2ND RND: GP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Qatar	2	1	1	0	6	0	4
Oman	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Afghanistan	2	1	0	1	1	6	3
India	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Bangladesh	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Group F

Sep 5 - Ulaanbaatar
Mongolia 1 (Amaraa 17)
Myanmar 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,221. **Ref:** Rowan (Ind)
Sent off: Mg Mg Lwin (Myanmar) 65

Sep 5 - Dushanbe
Tajikistan 1 (A Dzhalilov 41)
Kyrgyzstan 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 17,800. **Ref:** Makhadmeh (Jor)

Sep10 - Ulaanbaatar
Mongolia 0
Tajikistan 1 (D Ergashev 81)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,455. **Ref:** Hattab (Syr)
Sent off: I Dzhalilov (Tajikistan) 85

Sep10 - Yangon
Myanmar 0
Japan 2 (Nakajima 16, Minamino 26)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 25,500. **Ref:** Ibrahim (Jor)

WORLD CUP QUALS: ASIA – 2ND RND: GP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tajikistan	2	2	0	0	2	0	6
Japan	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Mongolia	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Kyrgyzstan	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Myanmar	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

Group G

Sep 5 - Jakarta
Indonesia 2 (Beto 11, 38)
Malaysia 3 (Sumareh 36, 90+6, Syafiq 65)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 54,659. **Ref:** Ko (SKo)

Sep 5 - Rangsit
Thailand 0
Vietnam 0
Att: 19,011. **Ref:** Al Athbah (Qat)

Sep10 - Jakarta
Indonesia 0
Thailand 3 (Supachok 55, 71, Theerathon pen 65)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 11,619. **Ref:** Ma (Chn)

Sep10 - Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia 1 (Syafiq 1)
United Arab Emirates 2 (Mabkhout 43, 75)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 43,200. **Ref:** Kimura (Jap)

WORLD CUP QUALS: ASIA – 2ND RND: GP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Thailand	2	1	1	0	3	0	4
UAE	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Malaysia	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Vietnam	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Indonesia	2	0	0	2	2	6	0

Group H

Sep 5 - Pyongyang
North Korea 2 (Jong Il-gwan 7, 56)
Lebanon 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Kasimov (Uzb)

Sep 5 - Colombo
Sri Lanka 0
Turkmenistan 2 (Orazsahedow 8, Amanow 53)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,120. **Ref:** Al Hoish (Sau)

Sep10 - Colombo
Sri Lanka 0
North Korea 1 (Jang Kuk-chol 67)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,258. **Ref:** Faizullin (Kyr)

Sep10 - Ashgabat
Turkmenistan 0
South Korea 2 (Na Sang-ho 13, Jung Woo-young 82)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 26,000. **Ref:** Al Jeneibi (UAE)

WORLD CUP QUALS: ASIA – 2ND RND: GP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Korea	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
South Korea	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Turkmenistan	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Lebanon	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Sri Lanka	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

● *The 8 group winners and the 4 runners-up with the best record will qualify for the 3rd round. Qatar are participating in this stage of the qualifiers even though, as 2022 World Cup hosts, they have an automatic place in the finals; if they win their group or finish as one of the 4 runners-up with the best record, the place they would have taken in the next round of qualifiers will go to the runner-up with the 5th-best record*

[1]These qualifiers double as the 2nd round of qualifiers for the 2023 Asian Cup - the 8 group winners and the 4 runners-up with the best record will qualify for the 24-team finals; the remaining countries will enter further qualifiers for the remaining12 places at the finals

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS

Group A

Sep 7 - London
England 4 (Kane 24, pen 50, pen 73, Sterling 55)
Bulgaria 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 82,605. **Ref:** Guida (Ita)
England: Pickford - Trippier, Keane, Maguire, Rose, Henderson (Mount 67), Rice, Barkley, Sterling (Sancho 71), Kane (Oxlade-Chamberlain 77), Rashford.
Bulgaria: P Iliev - S Popov, Bodurov (K Dimitrov 65), Sarmov, Bozhikov, Nedyalkov, G Ivanov (Mladenov 82), I Popov, Malinov, Wanderson, Marcelinho (Despodov 67).

Sep 7 - Pristina
Kosovo 2 (Muriqi 20, Vojvoda 67)
Czech Republic 1 (Schick 16)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 12,678. **Ref:** Makkelie (Hol)
Kosovo: Muric - Vojvoda, Rrahmani, Aliti, Hadergjonaj, Voca, Halimi (Rashkaj 87), Zhegrova (Muslija 56), Celina, Rashani (V Berisha 51), Muriqi.
Czech Republic: Vaclik - Kaderabek, Celustka, Suchy, Boril, Darida, Soucek, Masopust (Dolezal 80), Kral (Husbauer 72), Jankto, Schick (Krmencik 61).

Sep10 - Southampton
England 5 (Sterling 8, Kane 19, Vojvoda og 38, Sancho 44, 45+1)
Kosovo 3 (V Berisha 1, 49, Muriqi pen 55)
HT: 5-1. **Att:** 30,155. **Ref:** Zwayer (Ger)
England: Pickford - Alexander-Arnold, Keane, Maguire, Chilwell, Henderson, Rice, Barkley (Mount 83), Sancho (Rashford 85), Kane, Sterling.
Kosovo: Muric - Vojvoda, Rrahmani, Aliti, Hadergjonaj, Voca (Rashkaj 59), Halimi, Muslija (Paqarada 46), Celina, V Berisha (Hasani 85), Muriqi.

Sep10 - Podgorica
Montenegro 0
Czech Republic 3 (Soucek 54, Masopust 58, Darida pen 90+4)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,951. **Ref:** Palabiyik (Tur)
Montenegro: Petkovic - Marusic, Lagator, Tomasevic, Radunovic (Beciraj 73), Hocko, Vukcevic (Bakic 68), Boljevic, Kosovic (Savicevic 73), Vesovic, Mugosa.
Czech Republic: Vaclik - Coufal, Celustka, Suchy (Brabec 46), Boril, Darida, Soucek, Masopust (Kopic 77), Kral, Jankto, Schick (Krmencik 90+1).

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	4	4	0	0	19	4	12
Czech Rep	5	3	0	2	9	8	9
Kosovo	5	2	2	1	10	10	8
Montenegro	5	0	2	3	3	13	2
Bulgaria	5	0	2	3	5	11	2

Group B

Sep 7 - Vilnius
Lithuania 0
Ukraine 3 (Zinchenko 7, Marlos 27, Malinovskyi 62)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 5,067. **Ref:** Peljto (Bos)
Lithuania: Zubas - Vorobjovas, Palionis, Girdvainis, Mikoliunas, Simkus, Golubickas (Slivka 52), Matulevicius (Kuklys 63), Zulpa, Verbickas, Cernych (Laukzemis 68).
Ukraine: Pyatov - Bolbat, Kryvtsov, Matviyenko, Mykolenko, Malinovskyi (Bezus 80), Stepanenko, Zinchenko, Yarmolenko (Tsygankov 60), Yaremchuk (Junior Moraes 65), Marlos.

Sep 7 - Belgrade
Serbia 2 (Milenkovic 68, A Mitrovic 85)
Portugal 4 (William Carvalho 42, Goncalo Guedes 58, Cristiano Ronaldo 80, Bernardo Silva 86)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 39,839. **Ref:** Cakir (Tur)
Serbia: Dmitrovic - Maksimovic, Milenkovic, Nastasic, Kolarov, Matic, Milivojevic (Jovic 87), Lazovic (Ljajic 59), Tadic, Kostic (Katai 83), A Mitrovic.
Portugal: Rui Patricio - Nelson Semedo (Joao Cancelo 65), Jose Fonte, Ruben Dias, Raphael Guerreiro, Danilo Pereira, Bernardo Silva, William Carvalho, Bruno Fernandes (Joao Moutinho 85), Goncalo Guedes (Joao Felix 70), Cristiano Ronaldo.

Sep10 - Vilnius
Lithuania 1 (Andriuskevicius 28)
Portugal 5 (Cristiano Ronaldo pen 7, 62, 65, 76, William Carvalho 90+2)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 5,067. **Ref:** Nijhuis (Hol)
Lithuania: Setkus - Mikoliunas, Palionis, Girdvainis, Andriuskevicius, Simkus, Slivka, Vorobjovas, Kuklys (Zulpa 69), Verbickas (Kazlauskas 77), Laukzemis (Petravicius 65).
Portugal: Rui Patricio - Joao Cancelo, Jose Fonte, Ruben Dias, Raphael Guerreiro, Bruno Fernandes (Rafa Silva 56), Ruben Neves, William Carvalho, Bernardo Silva (Pizzi 89), Cristiano Ronaldo (Goncalo Guedes 79), Joao Felix.

Sep10 - Luxembourg
Luxembourg 1 (Turpel 66)
Serbia 3 (A Mitrovic 36, 78, Radonjic 55)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 6,373. **Ref:** Grinfeld (Isr)
Luxembourg: Moris - Jans, Chanot, Gerson, Carlson, V Thill (Joachim 85), Sinani (Da Mota 62), Barreiro, O Thill, Rodrigues, Deville (Turpel 61).
Serbia: Dmitrovic - Rukavina, Spajic, Maksimovic, Kolarov, Lukic (Gacinovic 61), Milivojevic, Ljajic, Milinkovic-Savic (Matic 79), Katai (Radonjic 46), A Mitrovic.

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine	5	4	1	0	11	1	13
Portugal	4	2	2	0	10	4	8
Serbia	5	2	1	2	10	12	7
Luxembourg	5	1	1	3	5	8	4
Lithuania	5	0	1	4	4	15	1

Group C

Sep 6 - Tallinn
Estonia 1 (Sorga 54)
Belarus 2 (Naumov 48, Skavysh 90+2)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,314. **Ref:** Durieux (Lux)
Estonia: Lepmets - Teniste, Tamm, Klavan, Pikk, Kait, Mets, Vassiljev (Dmitrijev 77), Zenjov, Sorga (Sappinen 83), Ojamaa (Sinyavskiy 86).
Belarus: Gutor - Matveichyk, Politsevich, Naumov, Polyakov, Kovalev (Skavysh 77), Yablonski, Maevski, Stasevich, Signevich (Bakhar 64), Dragun.

Sep 6 - Hamburg
Germany 2 (Gnabry 9, Kroos pen 73)
Holland 4 (F De Jong 59, Tah og 66, Malen 79, Wijnaldum 90+1)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 51,299. **Ref:** Soares Dias (Por)
Germany: Neuer - Ginter (Brandt 84), Sule, Tah, Klostermann, Kimmich, Kroos, Schulz, Werner (Havertz 61), Reus (Gundogan 61), Gnabry.
Holland: Cillessen - De Ligt, Van Dijk, Blind, F De Jong, Dumfries (Propper 58), De Roon (Malen 58), Wijnaldum, Promes, Babel (Ake 81), Depay.

Sep 9 - Tallinn
Estonia 0
Holland 4 (Babel 17, 47, Depay 76, Wijnaldum 87)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 11,006. **Ref:** Boiko (Ukr)
Estonia: Lepmets - Teniste, Tamm, Klavan, Kallaste, Mets, Zenjov (Liivak 60), Kait, Ainsalu (Dmitrijev 87), Ojamaa (Sappinen 85), Sorga.
Holland: Cillessen - Veltman, De Ligt, Van Dijk, Blind, Propper, F De Jong (L De Jong 71), Malen (Berghuis 63), Wijnaldum, Babel (Strootman 85), Depay.

Sep 9 - Belfast
Northern Ireland 0
Germany 2 (Halstenberg 48, Gnabry 90+3)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,326. **Ref:** Orsato (Ita)
Northern Ireland: Peacock-Farrell - Dallas, Cathcart, J Evans, Lewis, McNair, Davis, Saville (Magennis 70), C Evans, Washington (Lavery 83), McGinn (Whyte 59).
Germany: Neuer - Klostermann, Ginter (Tah 40), Sule, Halstenberg, Kimmich, Kroos, Gnabry, Reus (Can 85), Brandt, Werner (Havertz 68).

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	5	4	0	1	17	6	12
N Ireland	5	4	0	1	7	4	12
Holland	4	3	0	1	14	5	9
Belarus	5	1	0	4	3	10	3
Estonia	5	0	0	5	2	18	0

Group D

Sep 5 - Gibraltar
Gibraltar 0
Denmark 6 (Skov 6, Eriksen pen 34, pen 50, Delaney 69, Gytkjaer 73, 78)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 2,076. **Ref:** Lardot (Blg)
Gibraltar: Coleing - Sergeant (Jolley 83), R Chipolina, J Chipolina, Mascarenhas-Olivero, Anthony Hernandez, Walker, Annesley (Barnett 46), Andrew Hernandez, Britto (Pons 46), De Barr.
Denmark: Schmeichel - Wass, Kjaer (M Jorgensen 63), Christensen, J Larsen, Eriksen, Hojbjerg, Delaney (Schone 77), Skov, Gytkjaer, Poulsen (Braithwaite 63).

Sep 5 - Dublin
Republic of Ireland 1 (McGoldrick 85)
Switzerland 1 (Schar 74)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 44,111. **Ref:** Del Cerro Grande (Spa)
Republic of Ireland: Randolph - Coleman, Duffy, Keogh, Stevens, Whelan, Hourihane (Hogan 82), Robinson (Judge 58), Hendrick, McClean, McGoldrick (Browne 90+2).
Switzerland: Sommer - Mbabu (Fernandes 90+4), Elvedi, Schar, Akanji, Rodriguez, Zakaria, Xhaka, Freuler (Mehmedi 90), Embolo (Ajeti 86), Seferovic.

Sep 8 - Tbilisi
Georgia 0
Denmark 0
Att: 21,456. **Ref:** Letexier (Fra)
Georgia: Loria - Kakabadze, Kashia, Grigalava, Tabidze, Kiteishvili, Aburjania (Gvilia 86), Okriashvili, Ananidze, Qazaishvili, Kvilitaia (Daushvili 90).
Denmark: Schmeichel - Dalsgaard, Kjaer, Christensen, J Larsen, Hojbjerg (Schone 73), Delaney, Poulsen, Eriksen, Braithwaite, Dolberg (Gytkjaer 67).

Sep 8 - Sion
Switzerland 4 (Zakaria 37, Mehmedi 43, Rodriguez 45+4, Gavranovic 87)
Gibraltar 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 8,318. **Ref:** Orel (CzR)
Switzerland: Sommer - Elvedi, Schar, Rodriguez, Mehmedi, Zakaria, Xhaka (Vargas 74), Fernandes, Benito (Steffen 65), Embolo (Gavranovic 55), Ajeti.
Gibraltar: Coleing (Goldwin 25) - Sergeant, R Chipolina, J Chipolina, Mascarenhas-Olivero, Anthony Hernandez, Walker, Annesley, Andrew Hernandez (Coombes 58), Britto (Pons 67), De Barr.

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rep of Ireland	5	3	2	0	6	2	11
Denmark	5	2	3	0	15	5	9
Switzerland	4	2	2	0	10	4	8
Georgia	5	1	1	3	4	8	4
Gibraltar	5	0	0	5	0	16	0

Group E

Sep 6 - Trnava
Slovakia 0
Croatia 4 (Vlasic 45, Perisic 46, Petkovic 72, Lovren 89)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 18,098. **Ref:** Brych (Ger)
Slovakia: Dubravka - Valjent, Vavro, Skriniar, Hancko, Kucka (Haraslin 63), Lobotka, Hamsik, Rusnak (Bozenik 46), Duda, Mak (Duris 79).
Croatia: Livakovic - Bartolec, Lovren, Vida, Barisic, Modric, Brozovic, Perisic, Vlasic (Badelj 82), Rebic (Brekalo 70), Petkovic (Pasalic 83).

Sep 6 - Cardiff
Wales 2 (Pashayev og 26, Bale 84)
Azerbaijan 1 (Emreli 59)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 28,385. **Ref:** Farrugia Cann (Mlt)
Wales: Hennessey - C Roberts, Mepham, Rodon, Taylor (B Davies 80), Allen, Ampadu (Vokes 75), Bale, Wilson (Williams 63), James, T Lawrence.
Azerbaijan: Agayev - Pashayev, Medvedev, Mustafazade, Krivotsyuk, Garayev, Richard Almeida (Eyyubov 69), Emreli, Nazarov (Ramazanov 86), Rahimov (Khalilzade 73), Sheydayev.

Sep 9 - Baku
Azerbaijan 1 (Khalilzade 72)
Croatia 1 (Modric pen 11)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 9,150. **Ref:** Scharer (Swi)
Azerbaijan: Balayev - Pashayev (Khalilzade 46), Medvedev, Mustafazade, Krivotsyuk, Garayev, Huseynov (Mahmudov 60), Emreli, Nazarov (Eyyubov 90), Rahimov, Sheydayev.
Croatia: Livakovic - Bartolec (Brekalo 76), Lovren, Vida, Barisic, Modric, Brozovic, Perisic, Vlasic, Rebic (Orsic 86), Petkovic.

Sep 9 - Budapest
Hungary 1 (Szoboszlai 50)
Slovakia 2 (Mak 40, Bozenik 56)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 21,700. **Ref:** Mateu Lahoz (Spa)
Hungary: Gulacsi - Lovrencsics (Bese 30), Barath, Orban, Kadar, Dzsudzsak, Kleinheisler (Holender 85), A Nagy (Patkai 65), Sallai, Szalai, Szoboszlai. *Sent off: Barath 90+5.*
Slovakia: Dubravka - Satka, Vavro, Skriniar, Hancko, Kucka (Gregus 85), Lobotka, Hamsik, Rusnak, Bozenik (Duris 77), Mak (Haraslin 86).

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS – GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	5	3	1	1	10	5	10
Slovakia	5	3	0	2	9	7	9
Hungary	5	3	0	2	7	6	9
Wales	4	2	0	2	4	4	6
Azerbaijan	5	0	1	4	5	13	1

Group F

Sep 5 - Torshavn
Faroe Islands 0
Sweden 4 (Isak 12, 15, Lindelof 23, Quaison 41)
HT: 0-4. **Att:** 3,108. **Ref:** Martins (Por)
Faroe Islands: Nielsen - Askham, Gregersen, Baldvinsson, Davidsen, R Joensen (Vatnsdal 46), B Olsen (M Olsen 76), Vatnhamar, Hansson, Frederiksberg (Bjartalid 63), Edmundsson.
Sweden: Olsen - Lustig (Krafth 46), Lindelof, Granqvist, Bengtsson, Sebastian Larsson (Durmaz 73), K Olsson, Ekdal (Svensson 63), Quaison, Isak, Berg.

Sep 5 - Oslo
Norway 2 (Berge 34, King pen 45+1)
Malta 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 11,269. **Ref:** Muntean (Mol)
Norway: Jarstein - Elabdellaoui, Nordtveit, Hovland, Aleesami, Odegaard, Selnaes, Berge, S Johansen (Normann 76), Haaland (T Elyounoussi 66), King (Johnsen 58).
Malta: Bonello - Borg, Agius, Z Muscat (Apap 20), Corbalan, D Vella, P Fenech (Farrugia 64), Mbong, Grech (Effiong 77), R Muscat, Nwoko.

Sep 5 - Bucharest
Romania 1 (Andone 59)
Spain 2 (Sergio Ramos pen 29, Paco Alcacer 47)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 50,024. **Ref:** Aytekin (Ger)
Romania: Tatarusanu - Benzar, Nedelcearu, Chiriches, Grigore, Tosca, Deac (Maxim 71), Marin, Stanciu (Hagi 63), Puscas, Keseru (Andone 56).

Spain: Kepa - Jesus Navas, Llorente, Sergio Ramos, Jordi Alba, Fabian, Busquets, Saul, Rodrigo (Oyarzabal 71), Paco Alcacer (Hermoso 84), Dani Ceballos (Sarabia 76).
Sent off: Llorente 79.

Sep 8 - Ploiesti
Romania 1 (Puscas 47)
Malta 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 13,376. **Ref:** Strukan (Cro)
Romania: Tatarusanu - Chipciu, Rus, Chiriches, Stefan, Cicaldau, Marin (Stanciu 59), Bordeianu, Hagi (Grozav 72), Andone, Puscas (Keseru 76).
Malta: Bonello - Borg, Agius, Z Muscat, Corbalan, D Vella (Grech 86), R Muscat, Gambin (Zerafa 81), Mbong, Nwoko (Effiong 72), Farrugia.

Sep 8 - Gijon
Spain 4 (Rodrigo 13, 50, Paco Alcacer 90, 90+3)
Faroe Islands 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 23,644. **Ref:** Jakubik (Pol)
Spain: De Gea - Carvajal, Sergio Ramos (Nunez 84), Hermoso, Gaya, Thiago, Rodri, Dani Parejo, Suso (Sarabia 68), Rodrigo, Oyarzabal (Paco Alcacer 60).
Faroe Islands: Nielsen - Vatnhamar, Vatnsdal, Gregersen, Baldvinsson (Eriksen 55), Davidsen, Edmundsson (Bartalsstovu 66), B Olsen, Hansson, Bjartalid, K Olsen (Egilsson 87).

Sep 8 - Stockholm
Sweden 1 (Forsberg 60)
Norway 1 (S Johansen 45)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 38,372. **Ref:** Vincic (Sln)
Sweden: Olsen - Lustig, Lindelof, Granqvist, Bengtsson, Sebastian Larsson, K Olsson, Ekdal (Svensson 84), Forsberg, Quaison (Andersson 77), Isak (Berg 77).
Norway: Jarstein - Elabdellaoui, Nordtveit, Reginiussen, Aleesami, S Johansen (Haaland 76), Henriksen (T Elyounoussi 64), Berge, Selnaes, Odegaard, King.

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS – GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	6	6	0	0	17	3	18
Sweden	6	3	2	1	13	8	11
Romania	6	3	1	2	13	7	10
Norway	6	2	3	1	11	8	9
Malta	6	1	0	5	2	13	3
Faroe Islands	6	0	0	6	3	20	0

Group G

Sep 5 - Beer Sheva
Israel 1 (Zahavi 55)
North Macedonia 1 (Ademi 64)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,200. **Ref:** Ekberg (Swe)
Israel: Marciano - Dasa, Taha, Dgani, Elhamed, Ben Harush (Kayal 60), Peretz, Natcho, Solomon, Zahavi, Dabbur (Hemed 75).
North Macedonia: Dimitrievski - Musliu, Velkovski, Ristevski, Nikolov (Trajkovski 75), Bejtulai, Ademi, Bardhi (Spirovski 83), Alioski, Nestorovski (Pandev 69), Elmas.

Sep 6 - Salzburg
Austria 6 (Arnautovic 7, pen 53, Sabitzer 13, Steinbors og 76, Laimer 80, Gregoritsch 85)
Latvia 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 16,300. **Ref:** Hennessy (RoI)
Austria: Stankovic - Lainer, Dragovic (Grillitsch 81), Hinteregger, Ulmer, Baumgartlinger (Ilsanker 75), Laimer, Lazaro (Gregoritsch 69), Sabitzer, Alaba, Arnautovic.
Latvia: Steinbors - Petersons, Cernomordijs, Dubra, Maksimenko, Ciganiks (Savalnieks 66), Tobers (Rugins 77), Bogdaskins, Kamess, Laizans (Uldrikis 82), Gutkovskis.

Sep 6 - Ljubljana
Slovenia 2 (Aljaz Struna 35, Sporar 65)
Poland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,231. **Ref:** Karasev (Rus)
Slovenia: Oblak - Stojanovic, Aljaz Struna, Mevlja, Balkovec, Bezjak, Krhin, Kurtic, Verbic (Crnigoj 62; Beric 90+1), Sporar (Popovic 85), Ilicic.
Poland: Fabianski - Kedziora, Bednarek, Pazdan, Bereszynski, Zielinski, Klich (Bielik 70), Krychowiak, Grosicki (Blaszczykowski 70), Piatek (Kownacki 76), Lewandowski.

Sep 9 - Riga
Latvia 0
North Macedonia 2 (Pandev 14, Bardhi 17)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 2,724. **Ref:** Eskas (Nor)
Latvia: Vanins - Petersons, Cernomordijs, Maksimenko, Rugins, Ikaunieks, Laizans, Kigurs (Punculs 75), Kamess (Sabala 84), Uldrikis (Savalnieks 46), Gutkovskis.
North Macedonia: Dimitrievski - Bejtulai, Velkovski, Musliu, Alioski, Ademi, Bardhi, Trajkovski (Nestorovski 65), Pandev (Nikolov 75), Elmas (Radeski 88), Trickovski.

Sep 9 - Warsaw
Poland 0
Austria 0
Att: 56,788. **Ref:** Kassai (Hun)
Poland: Fabianski - Kedziora, Glik, Bednarek, Bereszynski, Bielik, Krychowiak, Kownacki (Blaszczykowski 58; Klich 77), Zielinski, Grosicki (Szymanski 70), Lewandowski.
Austria: Stankovic - Lainer, Posch, Dragovic, Ulmer, Baumgartlinger, Laimer (Gregoritsch 89), Lazaro (Ilsanker 77), Sabitzer, Alaba, Arnautovic.

Sep 9 - Ljubljana
Slovenia 3 (Verbic 43, 90, Bezjak 66)
Israel 2 (Natcho 50, Zahavi 63)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,669. **Ref:** Taylor (Eng)
Slovenia: Oblak - Stojanovic, Aljaz Struna (Blazic 54), Mevlja, Jokic (Balkovec 46), Bezjak, Kurtic, Krhin (Popovic 81), Verbic, Ilicic, Sporar.
Israel: Marciano - Dasa, Taha, Dgani, Elhamed, Ben Harush (Kayal 46), Weissman (Dabbur 61), Natcho, Peretz (Glazer 77), Solomon, Zahavi.

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS – GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	6	4	1	1	8	2	13
Slovenia	6	3	2	1	12	5	11
Austria	6	3	1	2	13	6	10
N Macedonia	6	2	2	2	8	8	8
Israel	6	2	2	2	11	11	8
Latvia	6	0	0	6	1	21	0

Group H

Sep 7 - Paris
France 4 (Coman 8, 68, Giroud 27, Ikone 85)
Albania 1 (Cikalleshi pen 90)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 77,655. **Ref:** Gil Manzano (Spa)
France: Lloris - Pavard, Varane, Lenglet, Hernandez (Digne 80), Coman (Ikone 77), Tolisso, Matuidi, Lemar (Fekir 84), Griezmann, Giroud.
Albania: Strakosha - Hysaj, Ismajli, Mavraj, Gjimshiti, Roshi, Bare, Ramadani (Gjasula 53), Abrashi (Xhaka 73), Uzuni, Balaj (Cikalleshi 62).

Sep 7 - Reykjavik
Iceland 3 (Sigthorsson 31, B Bjarnason 55, Bodvarsson 77)
Moldova 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,338. **Ref:** Pinheiro (Por)
Iceland: Halldorsson - Hermannsson, Arnason, R Sigurdsson, Skulason, Traustason, Gunnarsson, G Sigurdsson, B Bjarnason (Sigurjonsson 78), Bodvarsson (Kjartansson 84), Sigthorsson (Hallfredsson 63).
Moldova: Koselev - Graur, Mudrac, Armas, Reabciuk, Cebotaru, Ionita, Carp (Turcan 67), Ginsari (Sandu 80), Cemirtan (Cojocaru 65), Suvorov.

Sep 7 - Istanbul
Turkey 1 (Ozan 89)
Andorra 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 42,600. **Ref:** Robertson (Sco)
Turkey: Mert - Mehmet Celik, Merih, Caglar, Cengiz Umut (Ozan 61), Emre Belozoglu, Yusuf, Irfan, Calhanoglu (Emre Kilinc 80), Yalcin (Karaman 46), Tosun.
Andorra: Gomes - San Nicolas, Llovera, Lima, Cervos, Clemente (Alaez 79), Rebes, Vales, Rodriguez (M Garcia 63), C Martinez, Vieira (E Garcia 87).

Sep10 - Elbasan
Albania 4 (Dermaku 32, Hysaj 52, Roshi 79, Cikalleshi 83)
Iceland 2 (G Sigurdsson 47, Sigthorsson 58)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,652. **Ref:** Kruzliak (Slk)
Albania: Strakosha - Hysaj (Abrashi 72), Gjimshiti (Veseli 66), Dermaku, Lenjani (Roshi 62), Gjasula, Ismajli, Bare, Memushaj, Cikalleshi, Manaj.
Iceland: Halldorsson - Hermannsson, Arnason, R Sigurdsson, Skulason, Sigurjonsson, Gunnarsson, Hallfredsson (Sigthorsson 56), B Bjarnason (Magnusson 71), G Sigurdsson, Bodvarsson (Kjartansson 84).

Sep10 - Paris
France 3 (Coman 18, Lenglet 52, Ben Yedder 90+1)
Andorra 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 55,383. **Ref:** Balakin (Ukr)
France: Lloris - Dubois, Varane, Lenglet, Digne, Ikone (Lemar 63), Sissoko, Tolisso, Coman (Fekir 85), Griezmann, Giroud (Ben Yedder 72).
Andorra: Gomes - Jesus Rubio, Llovera, Lima, San Nicolas, Clemente (Jordi Rubio 79), Vales, Rebes, Cervos, Vieira (Moreno 86), C Martinez (Alaez 69).

Sep10 - Chisinau
Moldova 0
Turkey 4 (Tosun 37, 79, Turuc 57, Yusuf 88)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,281. **Ref:** Massa (Ita)
Moldova: Koselev - Graur, Efros, Mudrac, Reabciuk, Cebotaru, Turcan, Ionita (Ghecev 81), Sandu, Suvorov (Rozgoniuc 75), Ginsari (Cemirtan 68).
Turkey: Mert - Mehmet Celik, Ayhan, Merih, Cengiz Umut, Turuc, Ozan, Dorukhan (Abdulkadir Parmak 87), Irfan (Yusuf 80), Tosun, Karaman (Calhanoglu 70).

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS – GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Turkey	6	5	0	1	14	2	15
France	6	5	0	1	19	4	15
Iceland	6	4	0	2	10	9	12
Albania	6	3	0	3	10	9	9
Moldova	6	1	0	5	2	17	3
Andorra	6	0	0	6	0	14	0

Group I

Sep 6 - Nicosia
Cyprus 1 (Sotiriou 39)
Kazakhstan 1 (Schetkin 2)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 5,639. **Ref:** Gestranius (Fin)
Cyprus: Panayi - Mintikkis, Merkis, Laifis, N Ioannou, Papoulis (Pittas 90), Kyriakou, Kousoulos, Kastanos (Georgiou 58), Sotiriou, Efrem (Kosti 73).
Kazakhstan: Nepohodov - Vorogovskiy, Erlanov, Maliy, Marochkin, Suyumbayev, Kuat, Pertsukh, Tagybergen (Zhukov 82), Islamkhan (Fedin 65), Schetkin (Aimbetov 87).

Sep 6 - Serravalle
San Marino 0
Belgium 4 (Batshuayi pen 43, 90+2, Mertens 57, Chadli 63)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,523. **Ref:** Fesnic (Rom)
San Marino: S Benedettini - Manuel Battistini, Brolli, Simoncini, Palazzi, Grandoni, Mularoni, E Golinucci (A Golinucci 66), Giardi (Gasperoni 67), Berardi (M Vitaioli 74), Nanni.
Belgium: Courtois - Alderweireld, Denayer, Vertonghen, Meunier, De Bruyne (Praet 76), Tielemans, Carrasco, Januzaj (Chadli 56), Batshuayi, Origi (Mertens 55).

Sep 6 - Glasgow
Scotland 1 (McGinn 11)
Russia 2 (Dzyuba 40, O'Donnell og 59)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 32,432. **Ref:** Sidiropoulos (Gre)
Scotland: Marshall - O'Donnell, Mulgrew, Cooper, Robertson, McGinn (Christie 62), C McGregor, McTominay (Phillips 78), Forrest (McLean 62), McBurnie, Fraser.
Russia: Guilherme - Fernandes, Semenov, Dzhikiya, Kudryashov, Ozdoev, Zobnin (Barinov 66), Ionov (Erokhin 80), Golovin (Akhmetov 89), Zhirkov, Dzyuba.

Sep 9 - Kaliningrad
Russia 1 (Fernandes 89)
Kazakhstan 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 31,818. **Ref:** Dabanovic (Mne)
Russia: Guilherme - Fernandes, Semenov, Dzhikiya, Zhirkov, Anton Miranchuk (Ionov 57), Ozdoev, Akhmetov (Zobnin 63), Golovin, Dzyuba, Cheryshev (Kudryashov 55).
Kazakhstan: Nepohodov - Erlanov, Maliy, Marochkin, Beisebekov, Abiken, Pertsukh, Shomko, Fedin (Muzhikov 77), Zhukov (Islamkhan 61), Schetkin (Aimbetov 90).

Sep 9 - Serravalle
San Marino 0
Cyprus 4 (Kousoulos 2, 73, Papoulis 39, Artymatas 75)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 662. **Ref:** Griffith (Wal)
San Marino: S Benedettini - D'Addario, F Vitaioli, Simoncini, Grandoni, Lunadei, Gasperoni (Hirsch 61), A Golinucci, Tomassini (Nanni 62), Berardi, M Vitaioli (Cevoli 61).
Cyprus: Panayi - Artymatas, Kyriakou, Laifis, N Ioannou, Papoulis (Georgiou 46), Kousoulos, Spoljaric (M Ioannou 62), Kosti, Sotiriou, Pittas (Kastanos 74).

Sep 9 - Glasgow
Scotland 0
Belgium 4 (Lukaku 9, Vermaelen 24, Alderweireld 32, De Bruyne 82)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 25,524. **Ref:** Gil (Pol)
Scotland: Marshall - O'Donnell, Mulgrew, Cooper, Robertson, Snodgrass, McLean, McTominay, C McGregor (Armstrong 68), Christie (McGinn 86), Phillips (Russell 77).
Belgium: Courtois - Alderweireld, Vermaelen, Vertonghen, Meunier (Raman 90), Dendoncker, Tielemans (Verschaeren 86), Chadli (Carrasco 77), De Bruyne, Mertens, Lukaku.

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS – GROUP I

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	6	6	0	0	19	1	18
Russia	6	5	0	1	18	4	15
Kazakhstan	6	2	1	3	8	9	7
Cyprus	6	2	1	3	11	6	7
Scotland	6	2	0	4	5	13	6
San Marino	6	0	0	6	0	28	0

Group J

Sep 5 - Yerevan
Armenia 1 (Karapetyan 11)
Italy 3 (Belotti 28, Lorenzo Pellegrini 77, Hayrapetyan og 80)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 13,680. **Ref:** Siebert (Ger)
Armenia: Hayrapetyan - Hambardzumyan, Haroyan, Calisir, K Hovhannisyan, Grigoryan (Hovsepyan 57), Mkrtchyan, Barseghyan (Adamyan 57), Mkhitaryan, Ghazaryan (Babayan 82), Karapetyan.
Sent off: Karapetyan 45+1.
Italy: Donnarumma - Florenzi, Bonucci, Romagnoli, Emerson, Barella (Sensi 69), Jorginho, Verratti, Chiesa (Lorenzo Pellegrini 61), Belotti, Bernardeschi (Lasagna 83).

Sep 5 - Zenica
Bosnia-Herzegovina 5 (Gojak 11, 89, Malin og 80, Dzeko 85, Visca 87)
Liechtenstein 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,825. **Ref:** Nyberg (Swe)
Bosnia-Herzegovina: Sehic - Todorovic, Sunjic (Mihojevic 25), Zukanovic, Kolasinac, Krunic, Pjanic (Loncar 83), Gojak, Visca, Dzeko, Milosevic (Duljevic 55).
Liechtenstein: B Buchel - Rechsteiner, Malin, Kaufmann, Goppel, Martin Buchel, Meier (S Wolfinger 64), Wieser (Brandle 85), Hasler, Salanovic, Gubser (Sele 74).

Sep 5 - Tampere
Finland 1 (Pukki pen 52)
Greece 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 16,163. **Ref:** Martinez Munuera (Spa)
Finland: Hradecky - Raitala, Toivio, Arajuuri, Uronen, Lod, Sparv, Kamara, Soiri (Schuller 90+3), Tuominen (Jensen 87), Pukki (Karjalainen 85).
Greece: Barkas - Torosidis (Bakakis 70), Manolas, Papastathopoulos, Stafylidis, Kourbelis, Bouchalakis, Kolovos (Pelkas 60), Vrousai, Masouras, Koulouris (Pavlidis 76).

Sep 8 - Yerevan
Armenia 4 (Mkhitaryan 3, 66, Hambardzumyan 77, Loncar og 90+5)
Bosnia-Herzegovina 2 (Dzeko 13, Gojak 70)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 12,457. **Ref:** Bastien (Fra)
Armenia: Hayrapetyan - Hambardzumyan, Haroyan, Ishkhanyan, K Hovhannisyan (A Hovhannisyan 83), Hovsepyan (Vardanyan 79), Mkrtchyan (Grigoryan 75), Barseghyan, Mkhitaryan, Adamyan, Ghazaryan.
Bosnia-Herzegovina: Sehic - Todorovic (Bajic 85), Bicakcic, Zukanovic, Kolasinac, Besic (Loncar 80), Pjanic, Cimirot, Visca (Duljevic 64), Gojak, Dzeko.

Sep 8 - Tampere
Finland 1 (Pukki pen 72)
Italy 2 (Immobile 59, Jorginho pen 79)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 16,292. **Ref:** Madden (Sco)
Finland: Hradecky - Granlund (Soiri 82), Toivio, Arajuuri, S Vaisanen, Uronen, Lod, Kamara, Schuller (Kauko 87), Lappalainen (Tuominen 75), Pukki.
Italy: Donnarumma - Izzo, Bonucci, Acerbi, Emerson (Florenzi 8), Barella, Jorginho, Sensi, Chiesa (Bernardeschi 72), Immobile (Belotti 76), Lorenzo Pellegrini.

Sep 8 - Athens
Greece 1 (Masouras 33)
Liechtenstein 1 (Salanovic 85)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,445. **Ref:** Harkam (Aut)
Greece: Barkas - Bakakis, Manolas, Papastathopoulos, Tsimikas, Samaris, Bouchalakis (Zeca 62), Fetfatzidis (Pavlidis 68), Vrousai, Masouras (Giannoulis 86), Koulouris.
Liechtenstein: B Buchel - Rechsteiner (Hofer 82), Malin, Kaufmann, Goppel, Martin Buchel, Meier (Brandle 64), Hasler, Wieser, Salanovic, Gubser (Yildiz 56).

EURO 2020 QUALIFIERS – GROUP J	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	6	6	0	0	18	3	18
Finland	6	4	0	2	8	4	12
Armenia	6	3	0	3	12	11	9
Bosnia-Herz	6	2	1	3	12	11	7
Greece	6	1	2	3	7	10	5
Liechtenstein	6	0	1	5	1	19	1

● *The top 2 in each of the10 groups will qualify for the 24-team Euro 2020 (European Championship) finals; the 4 remaining finals places will be taken by the winners of the 4 UEFA Nations League play-off finals*

CONCACAF NATIONS LEAGUE

LEAGUE A

Group A

Sep 7 - Toronto
Canada 6 (Hoilett 13, 50, pen 82, David 21, Osorio 52, Henry 65)
Cuba 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Hernandez (Mex)

Sep10 - George Town, Cayman Islands
Cuba 0
Canada 1 (Davies 9)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Escobar (Gtm)
Sent off: Henry (Canada) 55

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canada	2	2	0	0	7	0	6
United States	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cuba	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

Group B

Sep 5 - Hamilton
Bermuda 1 (Cummings og 44)
Panama 4 (G Torres 31, 66, Blackburn 45, Carrasquilla 90+3)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Castro (Hnd)

Sep 8 - Panama City
Panama 0
Bermuda 2 (Wells 22, 61)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Sandoval (Nic)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Panama	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Bermuda	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Mexico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Group C

Sep 6 - Fort-de-France
Martinique 1 (Mandouki 41)
Trinidad & Tobago 1 (J Jones pen 65)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Kellys (Pan)

Sep 9 - Port of Spain
Trinidad & Tobago 2 (Molino 17, Telfer 46)
Martinique 2 (Carr og 60, Delem 80)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Montano (Mex)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Martinique	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Trin & Tob	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Honduras	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Group D

Sep 7 - Willemstad
Curacao 1 (Hooi 70)
Haiti 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Herrera (CR)

Sep10 - Port-au-Prince
Haiti 1 (Pierrot 15)
Curacao 1 (Hooi 41)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Lopez (Gtm)
Sent off: Ade (Haiti) 47

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Curacao	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Haiti	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Costa Rica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

● *The 4 group winners will qualify for the Nations League semi-finals; the bottom team in each group will be relegated to League B for the next edition of the tournament*

LEAGUE B

Group A

French Guiana v Belize - *a 3-0 win was awarded to French Guiana after Belize did not travel to play the game*

Sep 5 - St George's
Grenada 2 (Mitchell 19, J Charles 82)
St Kitts & Nevis 1 (T Hanley 57)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Morrison (Jam)

Sep 8 - Belmopan
Belize 1 (McCaulay 24)
Grenada 2 (Paterson pen 59, J Charles 90+4)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Lezama (Nic)

Sep 8 - Basseterre
St Kitts & Nevis 2 (Wharton 50, Liburd 75)
French Guiana 2 (Haabo 23, Eric pen 53)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Matamoros (Hnd)
Sent off: Mitchum (St Kitts & Nevis) 85

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grenada	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
French Guiana	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
St Kitts & Nevis	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Belize	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Group B

Sep 7 - San Salvador
El Salvador 3 (Orellana 7, D Ceren pen 73, Bonilla 87)
St Lucia 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Moncada (Hnd)
Sent off: Pineda (El Salvador) 78

Sep 7 - Lookout
Montserrat 2 (J Comley 29, Clifton 65)
Dominican Republic 1 (J Garcia 23)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Reyna (Gtm)

Sep10 - Santiago de los Caballeros
Dominican Republic 1 (Bueno 7)
El Salvador 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Nation (Jam)
Sent off: Jimenez (El Salvador) 62

Sep10 - Lookout
Montserrat 1 (Weir-Daley 45)
St Lucia 1 (Frederick pen 87)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Salgado (Hnd)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Montserrat	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
El Salvador	2	1	0	1	3	1	3
Dominican Rep	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
St Lucia	2	0	1	1	1	4	1

Group C

Sep 6 - Willemstad, Curacao
Aruba 0
Guyana 1 (Holder 22)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Herrera (ESv)

Sep 6 - Montego Bay
Jamaica 6 (Nicholson 9, 51, Reid 31, Brown 67, Bailey 77, Vassell 81)
Antigua & Barbuda 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Vergara (Pan)

Sep 9 - North Sound
Antigua & Barbuda 2 (Bishop 8, Harriette 69)
Aruba 1 (Groothusen 45+5)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Vazquez (USA)

Sep 9 - Leonora
Guyana 0
Jamaica 4 (Powell 14, 26, Orgill 44, 54)
HT: 0-3. **Ref:** Anderson (PR)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jamaica	2	2	0	0	10	0	6
Guyana	2	1	0	1	1	4	3
Antigua & B	2	1	0	1	2	7	3
Aruba	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

Group D

Sep 5 - Roseau
Dominica 1 (Frederick 23)
Surinam 2 (G Vlijter 7, 90)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Springer (Bar)

Sep 5 - Managua
Nicaragua 1 (Yorke og 87)
St Vincent & The Grenadines 1 (Anderson 45+2)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** W Lopez (Gtm)

Sep 8 - Arnos Vale
St Vincent & The Grenadines 1 (Cunningham 45+2)
Dominica 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Johnson (Guy)

Sep 8 - Paramaribo
Surinam 6 (G Vlijter 9, 11, 30, 65, D Fer 13, Comvalius 85)
Nicaragua 0
HT: 4-0. **Ref:** B Lopez (Gtm)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Surinam	2	2	0	0	8	1	6
St Vincent & G	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Nicaragua	2	0	1	1	1	7	1
Dominica	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

● *The 4 group winners will be promoted to League A for the next edition of the tournament; the bottom team in each group will be relegated to League C*

LEAGUE C

Group A

Sep 5 - Bridgetown
Barbados 4 (Leacock 4, Blackman 15, 49, Gale 64)
Saint-Martin 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Senecharles (Hai)

Sep 5 - Christiansted
US Virgin Islands 0
Cayman Islands 2 (Martin 60, 90+5)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Bassue (SKN)

Sep 8 - George Town
Cayman Islands 3 (Martin 5, J Ebanks 70, Bellafonte 75)
Barbados 2 (Hill 14, Jules 74)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Santander (Mex)

Sep 8 - The Valley, Anguilla
Saint-Martin 1 (Dalmat 78)
US Virgin Islands 2 (Dennis 3, Raejae Joseph 6)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Nicholson (Jam)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cayman Is	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Barbados	2	1	0	1	6	3	3
US Virgin Is	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Saint-Martin	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

Group B

Sep 6 - Willemstad, Curacao
Bonaire 4 (Martha 74, 83, Seinpaal 78, Trinidad 81)
British Virgin Islands 2 (Forbes 32, 90+2)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Gaymes (SVG)

Sep 9 - Nassau
Bahamas 2 (Hall 49, Hepple 78)
Bonaire 1 (Seinpaal 90+2)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** De Leca (Aru)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bonaire	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
Bahamas	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
British Virgin Is	1	0	0	1	2	4	0

Group C

Sep 5 - Guatemala City
Guatemala 10 (Vargas 13, J Martinez 18, Ceballos 37, 82, Galindo 44, Guerra 60, 72, 77, 86, Marquez pen 90+1)
Anguilla 0
HT: 4-0. **Ref:** Solano (DoR)

Sep10 - Mayaguez
Puerto Rico 0
Guatemala 5 (Ceballos pen 30, Guerra pen 54, Galindo pen 61, Robles 66, L De Leon 89)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Cornejo (ESv)
Sent off: Conde (Puerto Rico) 53

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guatemala	2	2	0	0	15	0	6
Puerto Rico	1	0	0	1	0	5	0
Anguilla	1	0	0	1	0	10	0

Group D

Sep 7 - Les Abymes
Guadeloupe 5 (Ramothe 6, David 26, 61, Baron 48, Hauterville 89)
Sint Maarten 1 (Lake 83)
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Lauziere (Can)

Sep10 - Providenciales
Turks & Caicos Islands 0
Guadeloupe 3 (Mirval pen 13, pen 51, Labylle 84)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Torres (PR)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guadeloupe	2	2	0	0	8	1	6
Turks & Caicos	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Sint Maarten	1	0	0	1	1	5	0

● *The 4 group winners will be promoted to League B for the next edition of the tournament*

FRIENDLIES

Wednesday, August 14

Aug14 - Santiago de los Caballeros
Dominican Republic 0
Guatemala 0

Sunday, August 18

Aug18 - Philipsburg
Sint Maarten 2
Anguilla 0

Sunday, August 25

Aug 25 - Basseterre
St Kitts & Nevis 3 (Barnes 9, Phipps 81, Rogers 89)
Antigua & Barbuda 0
HT: 1-0

Tuesday, August 27

Aug 27 - Basseterre
St Kitts & Nevis 4
Antigua & Barbuda 3
HT: 2-1

Wednesday, August 28

Aug 28 - Seeb
Oman 1 (Mubarak 88)
Yemen 0
HT: 0-0

Thursday, August 29

Aug 29 - Kaohsiung
Taiwan 3 (Chen Jui-chieh 35, Chen Chao-an 65, Ko Yu-ting 70)
Guam 0
HT: 1-0

Friday, August 30

Aug 30 - Belmopan
Belize 1 (Roberts)
St Vincent & The Grenadines 1
HT: 1-0

Aug 30 - Xianghe
China 4 (Yang Xu 12, Feng Jing 14, Wu Xi 19, 22)
Myanmar 1 (Hlaing Bo Bo 60)
HT: 4-0

Aug 30 - Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia 0
Jordan 1 (Murjan 7)
HT: 0-1

Aug 30 - Riffa, Bahrain
United Arab Emirates 4 (Jasim 4, Ibrahim 18, 30, Al Ahbabi 85)
Dominican Republic 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Al Hoish (Sau)

Saturday, August 31

Aug 31 - Riffa, Bahrain
United Arab Emirates 5 (Mabkhout x3, Barman, Ali Saleh)
Sri Lanka 1

Sunday, September 1

Sep1 - Belmopan
Belize 1 (McCaulay)
St Vincent & The Grenadines 0

Wednesday, September 4

Sep 4 - Marrakech, Morocco
Burkina Faso 1 (Zagre 52)
Libya 0
HT: 0-0

Thursday, September 5

Sep 5 - Los Angeles, USA
Argentina 0
Chile 0
Att: 37,000. **Ref:** Marrufo (USA)
Argentina: Marchesin - Montiel, Lucas Martinez, Otamendi, Tagliafico (Acuna 75), De Paul (Dominguez 67), Paredes (Rodriguez 85), Lo Celso (Palacios 53), Dybala (Mac Allister 70), Lautaro Martinez, Correa (Alario 57).
Chile: Claudio Bravo - Opazo, Diaz, Vegas, Parot, Aranguiz (Lichnovsky 88), Baeza (Alarcon 55), Sagal (Rubio 46), Pinares (Jeraldino 82), Sanchez, Vargas (Valdes 66).

Sep 5 - Tegucigalpa
Honduras 4 (Izaguirre 5, Benguche 40, 62, Rubio 59)
Puerto Rico 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 10,359. **Ref:** Escobar (Gtm)

Sep 5 - Kashima
Japan 2 (Y Osako 23, Minamino 30)
Paraguay 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 29,071. **Ref:** Kim Jong-hyeok (SKo)
Japan: Gonda - H Sakai (N Ueda 46), Tomiyasu, Yoshida, Nagatomo (Anzai 67), Hashimoto, Shibasaki (Itakura 76), Doan (Kubo 46), Minamino, Nakajima (Haraguchi 46), Y Osako (Nagai 67).
Paraguay: Fernandez - Escobar (Riveros 46), Balbuena, Gomez (Robert Rojas 54), I Piris, Sanchez (Martinez 46), Rodrigo Rojas (Paredes 46), D Gonzalez (O Romero 73), Almiron, Samudio, Sanabria (Angel Romero 64).

Sep 5 - Podgorica
Montenegro 2 (Kosovic 32, Mugosa pen 75)
Hungary 1 (Holender 2)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 3,370. **Ref:** Meckarovski (NMa)
Montenegro: Mijatovic (Petkovic 46) - Marusic (Mugosa 55), Simic (Lagator 66), Tomasevic, Radunovic, Vukcevic (B Jankovic 77), Boljevic, Kosovic (Hocko 58), Savicevic, Haksabanovic (Jovovic 72), Beciraj.
Hungary: Dibusz - Bese, Barath (Orban 46), Lang, Korhut (Ferenczi 61), Gazdag (Kovacs 46), Kleinheisler (Siger 46), D Nagy (Dzsudzsak 69), Holender (Varga 64), Nemeth, Holman.

Sep 5 - Belfast
Northern Ireland 1 (Malget og 38)
Luxembourg 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,108. **Ref:** Markham-Jones (Wal)
Northern Ireland: Peacock-Farrell (McGovern 67) - McLaughlin, Flanagan, Brown, Ferguson, Whyte (Galbraith 89), C Evans (Donnelly 67), Saville (McCalmont 60), Thompson (Davis 88), Lafferty (Lavery 60), Magennis.
Luxembourg: Moris (Schon 46) - Jans, Malget (Hall 46), Gerson, Carlson, Sinani (Da Mota 74), O Thill (Bohnert 85), Barreiro (Philipps 73), V Thill, Rodrigues, Deville (Turpel 60).

Sep 5 - Harrison, USA
Peru 0
Ecuador 1 (Castillo 48)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 21,428. **Ref:** Villarreal (USA)
Peru: Gallese - Advincula, Santamaria (Zambrano 46), Abram, Trauco, Tapia (Aquino 63), Gonzales (Reyna 57), Costa (Carrillo 46), Cueva, Flores (Ballon 78), Ruidiaz (Quevedo 76).
Ecuador: Ortiz - Lopez, Aimar, Arreaga, Palacios (Pineida 76), Mendez, Plata (Campana 90+1), Gaibor, Sornoza (Borja 65), Castillo (Romario Ibarra 68), Estrada (Cifuentes 81).

Sep 5 - Dammam
Saudi Arabia 1 (Al Dawsari 53)
Mali 1 (Adama Traore/F 38)
HT: 0-1

Sep 5 - Istanbul, Turkey
South Korea 2 (Hwang Ui-jo 48, 85)
Georgia 2 (Ananidze 40, Kvilitaia 90)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 750. **Ref:** Gocek (Tur)
South Korea: Gu Sung-yun - Park Ji-soo (Kim Young-gwon 46), Kim Min-jae, Kwon Kyung-won, Paik Seung-ho (Jung Woo-young 46), Hwang Hee-chan (Lee Dong-gyeong 62), Lee Kang-in (Kim Bo-kyung 72), Kwon Chang-hoon, Kim Jin-su, Lee Jeong-hyeop (Hwang Ui-jo 46), Son Heung-min (Na Sang-ho 62).
Georgia: Makaridze - Kakabadze, Kashia, Tabidze, Kharabadze, Aburjania (Gvilia 57), Kiteishvili (Daushvili 71), Davitashvili (Lobzhanidze 73), Qazaishvili (Kankava 80), Ananidze (Papunashvili 57), Okriashvili (Kvilitaia 57).

Friday, September 6
Sep 6 - Miami, USA
Colombia 2 (Muriel pen 25, 34)
Brazil 2 (Casemiro 19, Neymar 58)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 65,232. **Ref:** Elfath (USA)
Colombia: Ospina - Medina (Orejuela 78), D Sanchez, Mina, Tesillo, Cuadrado (Moreno 87), Barrios, Uribe (Lerma 61), Muriel (Berrio 68), D Zapata (Borre 83), Martinez (Diaz 61).
Brazil: Ederson - Daniel Alves, Marquinhos, Thiago Silva, Alex Sandro, Arthur, Casemiro, Philippe Coutinho (Bruno Henrique 80), Richarlison (David Neres 84), Roberto Firmino (Lucas Paqueta 83), Neymar.

Sep 6 - San Jose
Costa Rica 1 (Borges 48)
Uruguay 2 (De Arrascaeta pen 42, J Rodriguez 89)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 27,000. **Ref:** Parchment (Jam)
Costa Rica: Navas - Fuller, Waston, Duarte, Matarrita, Borges, Allan Cruz, Ruiz (Rodriguez 77), Campbell (Diaz 68), Ortiz (Moya 59), Leal (Lassiter 60).
Uruguay: Muslera - Caceres, Gimenez, Coates, Laxalt (Vina 82), Vecino, Bentancur (Valverde 75), Torreira (Nandez 45), B Rodriguez, De Arrascaeta (Lozano 66), Gomez (J Rodriguez 62).

Sep 6 - Caen, France
Ivory Coast 1 (Assale 81)
Benin 2 (Dossou 82, Sessegnon pen 87)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Schneider (Fra)

Sep 6 - Marrakech
Morocco 1 (Feddal 88)
Burkina Faso 1 (Bayala 71)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** Sandigui (Sen)

Sep 6 - Rades
Tunisia 1 (Layouni 78)
Mauritania 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** El Din (Egy)

Sep 6 - East Rutherford
United States 0
Mexico 3 (J Hernandez 21, Gutierrez 78, Antuna 82)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 47,960. **Ref:** Aguilar (ESv)
United States: Steffen - Cannon, Zimmerman (Robinson 58), Long, Dest (Lovitz 67), Boyd (Morris 58), Trapp (Lletget 77), Morales (Yueill 90+2), Pulisic, McKennie, Zardes (Sargent 67).
Mexico: Orozco - Sanchez, Reyes, Moreno, Gallardo (Navarro 87), C Rodriguez (Pineda 89), Herrera, Guardado (Gutierrez 77), J M Corona (Lozano 70), J Hernandez (Vega 87), Alvarado (Antuna 76).

Saturday, September 7
Sep 7 - Marrakech, Morocco
Libya 2 (Al Lafi 46, Al Tarhouni 62)
Niger 0
HT: 0-0

Sunday, September 8
Sep 8 - Nairobi
Kenya 1 (Muguna 51)
Uganda 1 (Okwi 24)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Waweru (Ken)

Monday, September 9
Sep 9 - Algiers
Algeria 1 (Slimani pen 72)
Benin 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** El Din (Egy)

Sep 9 - Amman, Jordan
Iraq 0
Uzbekistan 0

Sep 9 - Cardiff
Wales 1 (James 17)
Belarus 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,666. **Ref:** Collum (Sco)
Wales: Ward - C Roberts, Mepham (Lockyer 77), Rodon, B Davies (Gunter 90+1), Allen, Morrell, Wilson (Vaulks 89), Williams, James (Bale 50), Moore (Vokes 75).
Belarus: Plotnikov - Zolotov, Volkov, Politsevich, Polyakov, Baga (Dragun 71), Yablonski (Maevski 46), Kovalev (Ebong 46), Bakhar (V Klimovich 84), Skavysh (Pechenin 76), Signevich (Stasevich 70).

Tuesday, September 10
Sep10 - Los Angeles, USA
Brazil 0
Peru 1 (Abram 85)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Marrufo (USA)
Brazil: Ederson - Fagner, Marquinhos, Eder Militao, Alex Sandro, Casemiro (Fabinho 64), Allan, Philippe Coutinho (Bruno Henrique 84), Richarlison (Vinicius Junior 74), Roberto Firmino (Neymar 63), David Neres (Lucas Paqueta 64).
Peru: Gallese - Advincula, Zambrano (Santamaria 69), Abram, Trauco, Aquino (Gonzales 69), Tapia, Yotun (Ballon 90+3), Costa (Cueva 72), Ruidiaz (Reyna 46), Flores (Carrillo 72).

Sep10 - Tampa, USA
Colombia 0
Venezuela 0
Ref: Unkel (USA)
Colombia: Montero - Orejuela, D Sanchez (Lucumi 57), O Murillo, C Borja, Cuadrado (Campuzano 57), Lerma, Moreno (Uribe 75), Berrio (Muriel 71), Borre (D Zapata 71), Diaz (Martinez 71).
Venezuela: Farinez - Feltscher (Hernandez 46), Angel, Villanueva, Mago (B Anor 57), Herrera, Murillo (Savarino 73), J Anor (Machis 46), Moreno (Manzano 85), Soteldo (Otero 77), Hurtado.

Sep10 - Cuenca
Ecuador 3 (Estrada 49, Sornoza pen 73, Plata 86)
Bolivia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Gallo (Col)

Sep10 - San Pedro Sula
Honduras 2 (Elis 73, Rubio 80)
Chile 1 (Parot 19)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Calderon (CR)
Honduras: L Lopez - Crisanto, Maldonado, M Figueroa, Alvarado, Garrido (Pineda 46), B Acosta (A Lopez 46), Elis (Pereira 89), Moya (Solano 71), Chirinos (Rivas 46), Benguche (Rubio 46).
Chile: Claudio Bravo - Opazo (Bizama 75), Diaz, Vegas, Parot, Aranguiz, Baeza, Pinares (Christian Bravo 80), Meneses (Jeraldino 64), Vargas (Valdes 80), Rubio.

Sep10 - Amman
Jordan 2 (Al Taamari 43, Al Bakhit 45+1)
Paraguay 4 (O Romero 61, Almiron 74, Robert Rojas 75, Alejandro Romero Gamarra 90)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Al Baag (Irq)

Sep10 - San Antonio, USA
Mexico 0
Argentina 4 (Lautaro Martinez 17, 22, 39, Paredes pen 33)
HT: 0-4. **Ref:** Martinez (Hnd)
Mexico: Ochoa - Layun, Salcedo, Araujo, Gallardo, J Dos Santos, Herrera (C Rodriguez 63), Alvarez, J M Corona (Fabian 63), Jimenez, Lozano.
Argentina: Andrada - Montiel, Lucas Martinez (Balerdi 83), Rojo, Tagliafico, De Paul (Gaich 87), Paredes, Palacios (Dominguez 54), Mac Allister (Pereyra 65), Lautaro Martinez (Dybala 46), Acuna (Lanzini 77).

Sep10 - Marrakech
Morocco 1 (El Karti 21)
Niger 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,200

Sep10 - Seeb
Oman 1 (Mohsin Al Ghassani 55)
Lebanon 0
HT: 0-0

Sep10 - Dublin
Republic of Ireland 3 (Browne 56, K Long 83, Collins 86)
Bulgaria 1 (I Popov pen 67)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,259. **Ref:** Welz (Ger)
Republic of Ireland: Travers (O'Hara 76) - Christie, K Long, Egan, Hourihane (McClean 69), Cullen, Browne, O'Dowda (Stevens 76), Judge (Byrne 59), Curtis (Hendrick 84), Hogan (Collins 60).
Bulgaria: H Ivanov - Pashov, K Dimitrov (Panayotov 80), Slavchev, Nedyalkov (Bozhikov 59), Goranov, N Dimitrov (Wanderson 59), Milanov (I Popov 46), Malinov (Terziev 81), Mladenov (Despodov 68), Kraev.

Sep10 - Rouen, France
Tunisia 1 (Sliti 89)
Ivory Coast 2 (Assale 47, Fofana 74)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Abed (Fra)

Sep10 - Dnipropetrovsk
Ukraine 2 (Zinchenko 78, Yaremchuk 79)
Nigeria 2 (Aribo 4, Osimhen pen 34)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Valeri (Ita)
Ukraine: Lunin - Karavaev, Burda, Matviyenko, Sobol, Malinovskyi (Shepelev 73), Kovalenko (Buyalskyy 67), Zinchenko, Yarmolenko (Marlos 58), Junior Moraes (Yaremchuk 37), Tsygankov (Konoplyanka 73).
Nigeria: Uzoho - Aina, Ajayi, Troost-Ekong (Awaziem 87), Collins, Aribo, Etebo, Iwobi (Esiti 70), Chukwueze (Dennis 82), Kalu (Simon 73), Osimhen (Maja 90+1).

Sep10 - St Louis
United States 1 (Morris 79)
Uruguay 1 (B Rodriguez 50)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,625. **Ref:** Montero (CR)
United States: Guzan - Cannon (Lima 75), Long (Robinson 65), Ream, Dest (Lovitz 70), Boyd (Baird 65), Roldan, Yueill, Morris (Pomykal 85), Lletget, Sargent (Zardes 75).
Uruguay: Muslera - Caceres, Gimenez, Coates, Vina, Valverde, Vecino, Bentancur (Nandez 83), B Rodriguez (Lozano 62), De Arrascaeta, J Rodriguez (Gomez 87).

Club football

SOUTH AMERICA

LIBERTADORES CUP

Quarter-finals
1st legs
Aug 20
Gremio (Bra) 0
Palmeiras (Bra) 1 (Gustavo Scarpa 31)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 47,852. **Ref:** Loustau (Arg)
Sent off: Felipe Melo (Palmeiras) 77

Aug 21
Flamengo (Bra) 2 (Bruno Henrique 75, 79)
Internacional (Bra) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 66,366. **Ref:** Tobar (Chl)

Aug 21
LDU Quito (Ecu) 0
Boca Juniors (Arg) 3 (Abila 11, Reynoso 47, Caicedo og 81)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 35,088. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)
Sent off: Orejuela 45+3, Minda (from the bench) 48 (both LDU Quito)

Aug 22
River Plate (Arg) 2 (Fernandez pen 8, Borre pen 65)
Cerro Porteno (Par) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 55,705. **Ref:** Carrillo (Per)

2nd legs
Aug 27
Palmeiras 1 (Luiz Adriano 14)
Gremio 2 (Everton 18, Alisson 22)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 36,081. **Ref:** Pitana (Arg)
Agg 2-2, Gremio on away goals

Aug 28
Boca Juniors 0
LDU Quito 0
Att: 48,530. **Ref:** Sampaio (Bra)
Boca Juniors 3-0 on agg

Aug 28
Internacional 1 (Rodrigo Lindoso 62)
Flamengo 1 (Gabriel Barbosa 85)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 47,027. **Ref:** Loustau (Arg)
Flamengo 3-1 on agg

Aug 29
Cerro Porteno 1 (Haedo Valdez 8)
River Plate 1 (De La Cruz 52)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 44,530. **Ref:** Bascunan (Chl)
River Plate 3-1 on agg

SUDAMERICANA CUP

Quarter-finals
1st legs - Aug 6-22; 2nd legs - Aug13-29
Atletico Mineiro (Bra) v La Equidad (Col)
2-1, 3-1 (agg 5-2)
Corinthians (Bra) v Fluminense (Bra)
0-0, 1-1 (agg 1-1, Corinthians on away goals)
Independiente (Arg) v Independiente del Valle (Ecu)
2-1, 0-1 (agg 2-2, Independiente del Valle on away goals)
Zulia (Ven) v Colon (Arg)
1-0, 0-4 (agg 1-4)

EUROPE

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Final qualifying round
(teams with asterisk entered the competition at this stage)
1st legs - Aug 20/21; 2nd legs - Aug 27/28
APOEL (Cyp) v Ajax (Hol)
0-0, 0-2 (agg 0-2)
CFR Cluj (Rom) v Slavia Prague* (CzR)
0-1, 0-1 (agg 0-2)
Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) v Rosenborg (Nor)
2-0, 1-1 (agg 3-1)
LASK Linz (Aut) v Club Brugge (Blg)
0-1, 1-2 (agg 1-3)

Olympiakos (Gre) v Krasnodar (Rus)
4-0, 2-1 (agg 6-1)
Young Boys* (Swi) v Red Star Belgrade (Ser)
2-2, 1-1 (agg 3-3, Red Star Belgrade on away goals)

● *Winning teams qualified for the group stage; losing teams entered the Europa League in the group stage*

EUROPA LEAGUE

Final qualifying round

(the losing teams from the Champions League 3rd qualifying round entered at this stage - marked with asterisk)
1st legs - Aug 22; 2nd legs - Aug 29
AEK Athens (Gre) v Trabzonspor (Tur)
1-3, 2-0 (agg 3-3, Trabzonspor on away goals)
Ararat-Armenia (Arm) v F91 Dudelange (Lux)
2-1, 1-2 (aet) (agg 3-3, F91 Dudelange 5-4 on pens)
Astana (Kaz) v BATE Borisov (Bls)
3-0, 0-2 (agg 3-2)
AZ Alkmaar (Hol) v Antwerp (Blg)
1-1, 4-1 (aet) (agg 5-2)
Celtic* (Sco) v AIK (Swe)
2-0, 4-1 (agg 6-1)
Copenhagen* (Den) v Riga FC (Lat)
3-1, 0-1 (agg 3-2)
Espanyol (Spa) v Zorya (Ukr)
3-1, 2-2 (agg 5-3)
FCSB (Rom) v Vitoria Guimaraes (Por)
0-0, 0-1 (agg 0-1)
Feyenoord (Hol) v Hapoel Beer Sheva (Isr)
3-0, 3-0 (agg 6-0)
Gent (Blg) v Rijeka (Cro)
2-1, 1-1 (agg 3-2)
Legia Warsaw (Pol) v Rangers (Sco)
0-0, 0-1 (agg 0-1)
Linfield (Nlr) v Qarabag* (Aze)
3-2, 1-2 (agg 4-4, Qarabag on away goals)
Ludogorets (Bul) v Maribor* (Sln)
0-0, 2-2 (agg 2-2, Ludogorets on away goals)
Malmo (Swe) v Bnei Yehuda (Isr)
3-0, 1-0 (agg 4-0)
Partizan Belgrade (Ser) v Molde (Nor)
2-1, 1-1 (agg 3-2)
PSV Eindhoven (Hol) v Apollon (Cyp)
3-0, 4-0 (agg 7-0)
Slovan Bratislava (Slk) v PAOK Salonika* (Gre)
1-0, 2-3 (agg 3-3, Slovan Bratislava on away goals)
Sporting Braga (Por) v Spartak Moscow (Rus)
1-0, 2-1 (agg 3-1)
Strasbourg (Fra) v Eintracht Frankfurt (Ger)
1-0, 0-3 (agg 1-3)
Suduva (Lit) v Ferencvaros* (Hun)
0-0, 2-4 (agg 2-4)
Torino (Ita) v Wolverhampton Wanderers (Eng)
2-3, 1-2 (agg 3-5)

● *Winning teams qualified for the group stage*

ASIA

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Quarter-finals

1st legs - Aug 26-28; 2nd legs - Sep16-18
Al Ittihad (Sau) v Al Hilal (Sau)
0-0, 1-3 (agg 1-3)
Al Nassr (Sau) v Al Sadd (Qat)
2-1, 1-3 (agg 3-4)
Guangzhou Evergrande (Chn) v Kashima Antlers (Jap)
0-0, 1-1 (agg 1-1, Guangzhou Evergrande on away goals)
Shanghai SIPG (Chn) v Urawa Red Diamonds (Jap)
2-2, 1-1 (agg 3-3, Urawa Red Diamonds on away goals)

BANGLADESH

2018-19 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B'hara Kings (C)	24	20	3	1	54	14	63
Abahani D'ka	24	19	1	4	60	28	58
Sheikh Russel	24	16	4	4	43	20	52
Saif	24	14	5	5	40	24	47
Arambagh	24	10	3	11	33	32	33
Sheikh Jamal	24	7	7	10	31	37	28
Muktijoddha	24	6	8	10	26	38	26
Abahani Chit	24	5	10	9	22	26	25
Mohammedan	24	6	7	11	31	40	25
Rahmatganj	24	4	10	10	34	53	22
Brothers Union	24	5	6	13	28	49	21
NoFeL Sp (R)	24	5	5	14	23	42	20
BJMC (R)	24	2	5	17	14	36	11

IRAQ

2018-19 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Shorta (C)	38	27	8	3	73	22	89
Quwa Jawiya	38	25	9	4	58	27	84
Al Zawra'a	38	17	14	7	57	40	65
Al Naft	38	16	15	7	60	39	63
Naft Maysan	38	15	14	9	57	47	59
Al Karkh	38	15	12	11	44	35	57
Naft Al Wasat	38	11	17	10	38	37	50
Baghdad SC	38	12	14	12	36	35	50
Al Hudod	38	12	14	12	35	41	50
Al Kahrabaa	38	10	18	10	41	41	48
Erbil	38	12	12	14	34	36	48
Al Najaf	38	9	17	12	41	43	44
Al Talaba	38	10	14	14	47	52	44
Al Diwaniya	38	9	17	12	32	43	44
Naft Al Janoob	38	11	9	18	37	53	42
Sinaat K'baiya	38	9	14	15	30	38	41
Al Mina'a	38	8	16	14	34	42	40
Al Samawa	38	8	9	21	26	59	33
Al Bahri (R)	38	6	11	21	39	66	29
Al Hussein (R)	38	5	12	21	29	52	27

LAOS

2019 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lao Toyota (C)	15	12	1	2	46	12	37
Master 7	15	9	2	4	37	26	29
Yng Elephants	15	8	4	3	35	12	28
Lao Police	15	4	3	8	22	33	15
Lao Army	15	2	4	9	15	35	10
Evo United	15	2	2	11	17	54	8

MALAYSIA

2019 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Johor DT (C)	22	16	5	1	49	19	53
Pahang	22	12	7	3	37	21	43
Selangor	22	10	7	5	41	35	37
Kedah	22	9	7	6	37	29	34
Perak	22	8	9	5	36	31	33
Melaka United	22	9	6	7	34	30	33
Terengganu	22	7	9	6	35	37	30
Petaling Jaya	22	8	2	12	22	29	26
PKNS	22	5	6	11	37	38	21
Felda United	22	4	7	11	27	43	19
PKNP (R)	22	3	7	12	22	40	16
K'la Lumpur (R)	22	4	2	16	24	49	14

MYANMAR

2019 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shan Utd (C)	22	12	10	0	45	21	46
Ayeyawady	22	12	8	2	44	19	44
Yangon Utd	22	12	7	3	40	15	43
Yadanarbon	22	9	5	8	41	32	32
Hantharwady	22	9	5	8	28	27	32
Rakhine Utd	22	7	10	5	28	29	31
Sagaing Utd	22	7	6	9	36	42	27
Magwe	22	7	3	12	27	33	24
Zwekapin	22	6	6	10	29	39	24
S Myanmar	22	5	6	11	22	45	21
Dagon (R)	22	5	3	14	29	46	18
Chinland (R)	22	4	5	13	20	41	17

CONCACAF

CONCACAF LEAGUE

Round of 16

1st legs - Aug 20-22; 2nd legs - Aug 27-29
Alianza (ESv) v Tauro (Pan)
2-0, 0-1 (agg 2-1)
Comunicaciones (Gtm) v Guastatoya (Gtm)
2-1, 0-0 (agg 2-1)
Forge (Can) v Olimpia (Hnd)
1-0, 1-4 (agg 2-4)
Managua (Nic) v Motagua (Hnd)
1-2, 1-1 (agg 2-3)
Robinhood (Sur) v Independiente (Pan)
1-1, 1-2 (agg 2-3)
Santa Tecla (ESv) v San Carlos (CR)
0-0, 0-0 (agg 0-0, San Carlos 4-2 on pens)
Saprissa (CR) v Aguila (ESv)
2-0, 0-1 (agg 2-1)
Waterhouse (Jam) v Herediano (CR)
1-1, 1-1 (agg 2-2, Waterhouse 7-6 on pens)

CURACAO

2018-19 Championship Final
Aug 11: Scherpenheuvel 0 VESTA 0 (VESTA 3-1 on pens).

SURINAM

2018-19 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter M'poe (C)	30	24	5	1	75	28	77
Robinhood	30	23	7	0	95	22	76
Leo Victor	30	21	3	6	69	34	66
Transvaal[1]	29	18	4	7	66	33	58
PVV	30	16	6	8	63	39	54
WBC	30	16	4	10	57	43	52
SNL	30	15	3	12	65	54	48
West United	30	11	2	17	39	47	35
Notch	30	10	4	16	39	63	34
Voorwaarts	30	9	5	16	47	47	32
Broki	30	9	5	16	52	61	32
Santos	30	7	11	12	45	60	32
Nishan 42	30	7	8	15	50	76	29
ACoconut[2]	30	7	2	21	51	87	20
Papatam (R)	30	5	4	21	45	91	19
Botopasi[1,2] (R)	29	3	3	23	29	102	9

[1]*One game not played*
[2]*3pts deducted for failing to fulfil a fixture*

AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

2018-19 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mekelle (C)	30	18	5	7	45	24	59
Sidama Coffee	30	17	7	6	45	29	58
Fasil City	30	15	12	3	49	17	57
St George[1]	29	12	10	7	28	18	46
Jimma AJ	30	12	10	8	33	36	46
Awassa City	30	12	8	10	42	31	44
Welayta Dicha	30	10	11	9	34	27	41
Bahir Dar City	30	10	11	9	27	31	41
Ethiop Coffee	30	10	9	11	27	23	39
Welwalo A Uni[1]	29	9	10	10	16	21	37
Adama City	30	8	11	11	28	28	35
Dire Dawa	30	9	8	13	29	34	35
Suhul Shire	30	7	13	10	29	39	34
Defence (R)	30	8	8	14	37	57	32
Debub Police (R)	30	7	8	15	34	41	29
Dedebit (R)	30	4	1	25	21	68	13

[1]*One game not played*

SIERRA LEONE

2019 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
E End Lions (C)	24	13	11	0	32	10	50
Kallon	24	12	10	2	30	13	46
Kamboi Eagles	24	8	11	5	29	21	35
Ports Auth'ty	24	10	5	9	18	17	35
Mighty Bl'pool[1]	23	8	9	6	18	17	33
Central Parade	24	8	8	8	24	24	32
Freetown City	24	7	9	8	18	19	30
Old Edwardians	24	6	9	9	19	23	27
E End Tigers	24	6	8	10	17	22	26
Diamond Stars	24	5	11	8	20	28	26
Bo Rangers	24	6	7	11	14	19	25
RSLAF[1]	23	5	7	11	17	25	22
Anti Drugs (R)	24	3	11	10	10	28	20

[1]*One game not played*

OCEANIA

FIJI

2019 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ba (C)	14	11	3	0	29	5	36
Lautoka	14	9	1	4	34	19	28
Suva	14	7	2	5	22	17	23
Labasa	14	6	4	4	18	19	22
Nadi	14	5	0	9	25	27	15
Nasinu	14	4	1	9	20	22	13
Rewa	14	3	3	8	9	25	12
Tavua (R)	14	4	0	10	9	32	12

KEY TO TABLES
(C) = champions
(R) = relegated

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ITALY: SERIE A

ATALANTA

GOALKEEPERS

95	Pierluigi **GOLLINI**	(26) 18.03.95
-	Khadim **NDIAYE** (Sen)	(19) 12.04.00
31	Francesco **ROSSI**	(28) 27.04.91
57	Marco **SPORTIELLO**	(27) 10.05.92

DEFENDERS

13	Guilherme **ARANA** (Bra)	(22) 14.04.97
21	Timothy **CASTAGNE** (Blg)	(23) 05.12.95
19	Berat **DJIMSITI** (Alb)	(26) 19.02.93
8	Robin **GOSENS** (Ger)	(25) 05.07.94
33	Hans **HATEBOER** (Hol)	(25) 09.01.94
41	Roger **IBANEZ** (Bra)	(20) 23.11.98
4	Simon **KJAER** (Den)	(30) 26.03.89
5	Andrea **MASIELLO**	(33) 05.02.86
6	Jose Luis **PALOMINO** (Arg)	(29) 05.01.90
2	Rafael **TOLOI** (Bra)	(28) 10.10.90

MIDFIELDERS

15	Marten **DE ROON** (Hol)	(28) 29.03.91
11	Remo **FREULER** (Swi)	(27) 15.04.92
10	Papu **GOMEZ** (Arg)	(31) 15.02.88
72	Josip **ILICIC** (Sln)	(31) 29.01.88
18	Ruslan **MALINOVSKYI** (Ukr)	(26) 04.05.93
88	Mario **PASALIC** (Cro)	(24) 09.02.95

FORWARDS

99	Musa **BARROW** (Gam)	(20) 14.11.98
9	Luis **MURIEL** (Col)	(28) 16.04.91
17	Roberto **PICCOLI**	(18) 27.01.01
91	Duvan **ZAPATA** (Col)	(28) 01.04.91

COACH

	Gian Piero **GASPERINI**	(61) 26.01.58

BOLOGNA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Angelo **DA COSTA** (Bra)	(34) 12.11.83
12	Marco **MOLLA**	(17) 19.06.02
-	Caio Vinicius **PIRANA** (Bra)	(20) 08.05.99
97	Mouhamadou **SARR** (Sen)	(22) 05.01.97
28	Lukasz **SKORUPSKI** (Pol)	(27) 05.05.91

DEFENDERS

13	Mattia **BANI**	(24) 10.12.93
25	Gabriele **CORBO**	(19) 11.01.00
23	**DANILO** Larangeira (Bra)	(35) 10.05.84
4	Stefano **DENSWIL** (Hol)	(26) 07.05.93
35	Mitchell **DIJKS** (Hol)	(25) 09.02.93
54	Lirim **KASTRATI** (Kos)	(19) 02.02.99
15	Ibrahima **MBAYE** (Sen)	(23) 19.11.94
5	Gary **MEDEL** (Chl)	(32) 03.08.87
6	Nehuen **PAZ** (Arg)	(25) 28.04.93
14	Takehiro **TOMIYASU** (Jap)	(20) 05.11.98

MIDFIELDERS

-	Lorenzo **COLLI**	(21) 26.02.97
31	Blerim **DZEMAILI** (Swi)	(32) 12.04.86
-	Musa **JUWARA** (Gam)	(17) 26.12.17
11	Ladislav **KREJCI** (CzR)	(26) 05.07.92
16	Andrea **POLI**	(29) 29.09.89
30	Jerdy **SCHOUTEN** (Hol)	(22) 12.01.97
21	Roberto **SORIANO**	(27) 08.02.91
32	Mattias **SVANBERG** (Swe)	(19) 05.01.99

FORWARDS

22	Mattia **DESTRO**	(27) 20.03.91
17	Andreas Skov **OLSEN** (Den)	(19) 29.12.99
7	Riccardo **ORSOLINI**	(21) 24.01.97
24	Rodrigo **PALACIO** (Arg)	(36) 05.02.82
10	Nicola **SANSONE**	(27) 10.09.91
9	Federico **SANTANDER** (Par)	(27) 04.06.91

COACH

	Sinisa **MIHAJLOVIC** (Ser)	(50) 20.02.69

BRESCIA

GOALKEEPERS

22	Enrico **ALFONSO**	(31) 04.05.88
12	Lorenzo **ANDRENACCI**	(24) 02.01.95
1	Jesse **JORONEN** (Fin)	(26) 21.03.93

DEFENDERS

14	Jhon **CHANCELLOR** (Ven)	(27) 02.01.92
15	Andrea **CISTANA**	(22) 01.08.97
16	Felipe **CURCIO** (Bra)	(26) 06.08.93
5	Daniele **GASTALDELLO**	(36) 25.06.83
20	Giangiacomo **MAGNANI**	(23) 04.10.95
26	Bruno **MARTELLA**	(27) 14.08.92
3	Ales **MATEJU** (CzR)	(23) 03.06.96
2	Stefano **SABELLI**	(26) 13.01.93
29	Alessandro **SEMPRINI**	(21) 24.02.98

MIDFIELDERS

25	Dimitri **BISOLI**	(25) 25.03.94
27	Daniele **DESSENA**	(32) 10.05.87
19	Massimiliano **MANGRAVITI**	(21) 24.01.98
23	Leonardo **MOROSINI**	(23) 13.10.95
6	Emanuele **NDOJ** (Alb)	(22) 20.11.96
-	**ROMULO**	(32) 22.05.87
7	Nikolas **SPALEK** (Slk)	(22) 12.02.97
4	Sandro **TONALI**	(19) 08.05.00
32	Luca **TREMOLADA**	(27) 25.11.91
24	Mattia **VIVIANI**	(18) 04.09.00
8	Jaromir **ZMRHAL** (CzR)	(26) 02.08.93

FORWARDS

18	Florian **AYE** (Fra)	(22) 09.01.97
45	Mario **BALOTELLI**	(29) 12.08.90
9	Alfredo **DONNARUMMA**	(28) 30.11.90
-	Alessandro **MATRI**	(35) 19.08.84
11	Ernesto **TORREGROSSA**	(27) 28.06.92

COACH

	Eugenio **CORINI**	(49) 30.07.70

CAGLIARI

GOALKEEPERS

20	Simone **ARESTI**	(33) 15.03.86
34	Giuseppe **CIOCCI**	(17) 24.01.02
28	Alessio **CRAGNO**	(25) 28.06.94
90	Robin **OLSEN** (Swe)	(29) 08.01.90
1	**RAFAEL** (Bra)	(37) 03.03.82

DEFENDERS

12	Fabrizio **CACCIATORE**	(32) 08.10.86
23	Luca **CEPPITELLI**	(29) 08.11.89
15	Ragnar **KLAVAN** (Est)	(33) 30.10.85
22	Charalambos **LYKOGIANNIS** (Gre)	(25) 22.10.93
3	Federico **MATTIELLO**	(24) 14.07.95
33	Luca **PELLEGRINI**	(20) 07.03.99
2	Simone **PINNA**	(21) 17.10.97
19	Fabio **PISACANE**	(33) 28.01.86
40	Sebastian **WALUKIEWICZ** (Pol)	(19) 05.04.00

MIDFIELDERS

14	Valter **BIRSA** (Sln)	(33) 07.08.86
29	Lucas **CASTRO** (Arg)	(30) 09.04.89
8	Luca **CIGARINI**	(33) 20.06.86
27	Alessandro **DEIOLA**	(24) 01.08.95
24	Paolo **FARAGO**	(26) 12.02.93
21	Artur **IONITA** (Mol)	(29) 17.08.90
10	**JOAO PEDRO** (Bra)	(27) 09.03.92
4	Radja **NAINGGOLAN** (Blg)	(31) 04.05.88
18	Nahitan **NANDEZ** (Uru)	(23) 08.12.95
17	Christian **OLIVA** (Uru)	(23) 01.06.96
6	Marko **ROG** (Cro)	(24) 19.07.95

FORWARDS

9	Alberto **CERRI**	(23) 16.04.96
30	Leonardo **PAVOLETTI**	(30) 26.11.88
26	Daniele **RAGATZU**	(28) 21.09.91
99	Giovanni **SIMEONE** (Arg)	(24) 05.07.95

COACH

	Rolando **MARAN**	(56) 14.07.63

FIORENTINA

GOALKEEPERS

33	Federico **BRANCOLINI**	(18) 14.07.01
-	Michele **CEROFOLINI**	(20) 04.01.99
69	Bartlomiej **DRAGOWSKI** (Pol)	(22) 19.08.97
1	Pietro **TERRACCIANO**	(29) 08.03.90

DEFENDERS

22	Martin **CACERES** (Uru)	(32) 07.04.87
17	Federico **CECCHERINI**	(27) 11.05.92
29	**DALBERT** (Bra)	(26) 08.09.93
21	Pol **LIROLA** (Spa)	(22) 13.08.97
4	Nikola **MILENKOVIC** (Ser)	(21) 12.10.97
20	German **PEZZELLA** (Arg)	(28) 27.06.91
6	Luca **RANIERI**	(20) 23.04.99
32	Jacob **RASMUSSEN** (Den)	(22) 28.05.97
93	Aleksa **TERZIC** (Ser)	(20) 17.08.99
23	Lorenzo **VENUTI**	(24) 12.04.95

MIDFIELDERS

5	Milan **BADELJ** (Cro)	(30) 25.02.89
24	Marco **BENASSI**	(25) 08.09.94
8	Gaetano **CASTROVILLI**	(22) 17.02.97
15	Sebastian **CRISTOFORO** (Uru)	(26) 23.08.93
14	Bryan **DABO** (BuF)	(27) 18.02.92
16	Valentin **EYSSERIC** (Fra)	(27) 25.03.92
31	Rachid **GHEZZAL** (Alg)	(27) 09.05.92
19	Tofol **MONTIEL** (Spa)	(19) 11.04.00
78	Erick **PULGAR** (Chl)	(25) 15.01.94
30	Andres **SCHETINO** (Uru)	(25) 26.05.94
27	Szymon **ZURKOWSKI** (Pol)	(22) 25.09.97

FORWARDS

10	Kevin-Prince **BOATENG** (Gha)	(32) 06.03.87
25	Federico **CHIESA**	(21) 25.10.97
-	Bobby **DUNCAN** (Eng)	(18) 26.06.01
9	**PEDRO** (Bra)	(22) 20.06.97
7	Franck **RIBERY** (Fra)	(36) 01.04.83
11	Riccardo **SOTTIL**	(20) 03.06.99
77	Cyril **THEREAU** (Fra)	(36) 24.04.83
28	Dusan **VLAHOVIC** (Ser)	(19) 28.01.00

COACH

	Vincenzo **MONTELLA**	(45) 18.06.74

GENOA

GOALKEEPERS

93	**JANDREI** (Bra)	(26) 01.03.93
22	Federico **MARCHETTI**	(36) 07.02.83
97	Andrei Ionut **RADU** (Rom)	(22) 28.05.97
25	Rok **VODISEK** (Sln)	(20) 05.12.98

DEFENDERS

32	Peter **ANKERSEN** (Den)	(29) 22.09.90
3	Antonio **BARRECA** (Ita)	(24) 18.03.95
14	Davide **BIRASCHI**	(25) 02.07.94
4	Domenico **CRISCITO**	(32) 30.12.86
13	Jawad **EL YAMIQ** (Mor)	(27) 29.02.92
18	Paolo **GHIGLIONE**	(22) 02.02.97
5	Edoardo **GOLDANIGA**	(25) 02.11.93
17	Cristian **ROMERO** (Arg)	(21) 27.04.98
2	Cristian **ZAPATA** (Col)	(33) 30.09.86

MIDFIELDERS

28	Kevin **AGUDELO** (Col)	(20) 14.11.98
29	Francesco **CASSATA**	(22) 16.07.97
15	Filip **JAGIELLO** (Pol)	(22) 08.08.97
8	Lukas **LERAGER** (Den)	(26) 12.07.93
33	Marko **PAJAC** (Cro)	(26) 11.05.93
21	Ivan **RADOVANOVIC** (Ser)	(31) 29.08.88
-	Nicolo **ROVELLA**	(17) 04.12.01
23	**SANDRO** (Bra)	(30) 15.03.89
91	Riccardo **SAPONARA**	(27) 21.12.91
20	Lasse **SCHONE** (Den)	(33) 27.05.86
27	Stefano **STURARO**	(26) 09.03.93
-	Mattia **ZENNARO**	(19) 03.08.00

FORWARDS

30	Andrea **FAVILLI**	(22) 17.05.97
10	Sinan **GUMUS** (Ger)	(23) 15.01.96
11	Christian **KOUAME** (IvC)	(21) 06.12.97
19	Goran **PANDEV** (NMa)	(36) 27.07.83
99	Andrea **PINAMONTI**	(20) 19.05.99
9	Antonio **SANABRIA** (Par)	(23) 04.03.96

COACH

	Aurelio **ANDREAZZOLI**	(65) 05.11.53

INTERNAZIONALE

GOALKEEPERS

46	Tommaso **BERNI**	(36) 06.03.83
1	Samir **HANDANOVIC** (Sln)	(35) 14.07.84
27	Daniele **PADELLI**	(33) 25.10.85

DEFENDERS

18	Kwadwo **ASAMOAH** (Gha)	(30) 09.12.88
95	Alessandro **BASTONI**	(20) 13.04.99
34	Cristiano **BIRAGHI**	(27) 01.09.92
33	Danilo **D'AMBROSIO**	(31) 09.09.88
6	Stefan **DE VRIJ** (Hol)	(27) 05.02.92
21	Federico **DIMARCO**	(21) 10.11.97
2	Diego **GODIN** (Uru)	(33) 16.02.86
31	Lorenzo **PIROLA**	(17) 20.02.02
13	Andrea **RANOCCHIA**	(31) 16.02.88
37	Milan **SKRINIAR** (Slk)	(24) 11.02.95

MIDFIELDERS

32	Lucien **AGOUME** (Fra)	(17) 09.02.02
23	Nicolo **BARELLA**	(22) 07.02.97
77	Marcelo **BROZOVIC** (Cro)	(26) 16.11.92
87	Antonio **CANDREVA**	(32) 28.02.87
5	Roberto **GAGLIARDINI**	(25) 07.04.94
19	Valentino **LAZARO** (Aut)	(23) 24.03.96
12	Stefano **SENSI**	(24) 05.08.95
20	Borja **VALERO** (Spa)	(34) 12.01.85
8	Matias **VECINO** (Uru)	(28) 24.08.91

FORWARDS

30	Sebastiano **ESPOSITO**	(17) 02.07.02
9	Romelu **LUKAKU** (Blg)	(26) 13.05.93
10	Lautaro **MARTINEZ** (Arg)	(22) 22.08.97
16	Matteo **POLITANO**	(26) 03.08.93
7	Alexis **SANCHEZ** (Chl)	(30) 19.12.88

COACH

	Antonio **CONTE**	(50) 31.07.69

JUVENTUS

GOALKEEPERS

77	Gianluigi **BUFFON**	(41) 28.01.78
22	Mattia **PERIN**	(26) 10.11.92
31	Carlo **PINSOGLIO**	(29) 16.03.90
1	Wojciech **SZCZESNY** (Pol)	(29) 18.04.90

DEFENDERS

12	**ALEX SANDRO** (Bra)	(28) 26.01.91
19	Leonardo **BONUCCI**	(32) 01.05.87
3	Giorgio **CHIELLINI**	(35) 14.08.84
13	**DANILO** (Bra)	(28) 15.07.91
4	Matthijs **DE LIGT** (Hol)	(20) 12.08.99
28	Merih **DEMIRAL** (Tur)	(21) 05.03.98
2	Mattia **DE SCIGLIO**	(26) 20.10.92
24	Daniele **RUGANI**	(25) 29.07.94

MIDFIELDERS

30	Rodrigo **BENTANCUR** (Uru)	(22) 05.06.97
23	Emre **CAN** (Ger)	(25) 12.01.94
16	Juan **CUADRADO** (Col)	(31) 26.05.88
6	Sami **KHEDIRA** (Ger)	(32) 04.04.87
14	Blaise **MATUIDI** (Fra)	(32) 09.04.87
5	Miralem **PJANIC** (Bos)	(29) 02.04.90
25	Adrien **RABIOT** (Fra)	(24) 03.04.95
8	Aaron **RAMSEY** (Wal)	(28) 26.12.90

FORWARDS

33	Federico **BERNARDESCHI**	(25) 16.02.94
11	Douglas **COSTA** (Bra)	(29) 14.09.90
10	Paulo **DYBALA** (Arg)	(25) 15.11.93
21	Gonzalo **HIGUAIN** (Arg)	(31) 10.12.87
17	Mario **MANDZUKIC** (Cro)	(33) 21.05.86
15	Marko **PJACA** (Cro)	(24) 06.05.95
7	Cristiano **RONALDO** (Por)	(34) 05.02.85

COACH

	Maurizio **SARRI**	(60) 10.01.59

LAZIO

GOALKEEPERS

23	Guido **GUERRIERI**	(23) 25.02.96
24	Silvio **PROTO** (Blg)	(36) 23.05.83
1	Thomas **STRAKOSHA** (Alb)	(24) 19.03.95
-	Ivan **VARGIC** (Cro)	(32) 15.03.87

DEFENDERS

33	Francesco **ACERBI**	(31) 10.02.88
-	Djavan **ANDERSON** (Hol)	(24) 21.04.95
15	**BASTOS** (Ang)	(28) 23.11.91
-	Tiago **CASASOLA** (Arg)	(24) 11.08.95
14	Riza **DURMISI** (Den)	(25) 08.01.94
3	**LUIZ FELIPE** (Bra)	(22) 22.03.97
5	Jordan **LUKAKU** (Blg)	(25) 25.07.94
4	**PATRIC** (Spa)	(26) 17.04.93
26	Stefan **RADU** (Rom)	(32) 22.10.86
49	Jorge **SILVA** (Por)	(20) 04.02.99
93	Denis **VAVRO** (Slk)	(23) 10.04.96

MIDFIELDERS

28	Andre **ANDERSON**	(20) 23.09.99
7	Valon **BERISHA** (Kos)	(26) 07.02.93
32	Danilo **CATALDI**	(25) 06.08.94
11	Joaquin **CORREA** (Arg)	(25) 13.08.94
22	**JONY** (Spa)	(28) 09.07.91
29	Manuel **LAZZARI**	(25) 29.11.93
6	Lucas **LEIVA** (Bra)	(32) 09.01.87
10	**LUIS ALBERTO** (Spa)	(27) 28.09.92
19	Senad **LULIC** (Bos)	(33) 18.01.86
77	Adam **MARUSIC** (Mne)	(26) 17.10.92
21	Sergej **MILINKOVIC-SAVIC** (Ser)	(24) 27.02.95
-	Joseph **MINALA** (Cam)	(23) 16.08.96
16	Marco **PAROLO**	(34) 25.01.85

FORWARDS

34	Bobby **ADEKANYE** (Hol)	(20) 14.02.99
20	Felipe **CAICEDO** (Ecu)	(31) 05.09.88
17	Ciro **IMMOBILE**	(29) 20.02.90
-	Ricardo **KISHNA** (Hol)	(24) 04.01.95

COACH

	Simone **INZAGHI**	(43) 05.04.76

LECCE

GOALKEEPERS

95	Marco **BLEVE**	(23) 18.10.95
97	Gianmarco **CHIRONI**	(22) 07.09.97
21	**GABRIEL** (Bra)	(27) 27.09.92
22	Mauro **VIGORITO**	(29) 22.05.90

DEFENDERS

6	Romario **BENZAR** (Rom)	(27) 26.03.92
27	Marco **CALDERONI**	(30) 18.02.89
39	Cristian **DELL'ORCO**	(25) 10.02.94
14	Luka **DUMANCIC** (Cro)	(20) 27.10.98
28	Riccardo **FIAMOZZI**	(26) 18.05.93
25	Antonino **GALLO**	(19) 05.01.00
5	Fabio **LUCIONI**	(32) 25.09.87
16	Biagio **MECCARIELLO**	(28) 27.03.91
18	Roberto **PIERNO**	(18) 14.02.01
2	Davide **RICCARDI**	(23) 09.04.96
29	Andrea **RISPOLI**	(31) 29.09.88
13	Luca **ROSSETTINI**	(24) 09.05.85
3	Brayan **VERA** (Col)	(20) 15.01.99

MIDFIELDERS

10	Filippo **FALCO**	(27) 11.02.92
85	Giannelli **IMBULA** (DRC)	(27) 12.09.92
37	Zan **MAJER** (Sln)	(27) 25.07.92
8	Marco **MANCOSU**	(31) 22.08.88
4	Jacopo **PETRICCIONE**	(24) 22.02.95
11	Yevhen **SHAKHOV** (Ukr)	(28) 30.11.90
23	Andrea **TABANELLI**	(29) 02.02.90
77	Panagiotis **TACHTSIDIS** (Gre)	(28) 15.02.91

FORWARDS

30	Khouma **BABACAR** (Sen)	(26) 17.03.93
20	Edgaras **DUBICKAS** (Lit)	(21) 09.07.98
17	Diego **FARIAS** (Bra)	(29) 10.05.90
19	Andrea **LA MANTIA**	(28) 06.05.91
9	Gianluca **LAPADULA**	(29) 07.02.90
32	Simone **LO FASO**	(21) 18.02.98

COACH

	Fabio **LIVERANI**	(43) 29.04.76

MILAN

GOALKEEPERS

90	Antonio **DONNARUMMA**	(29) 07.07.90
99	Gianluigi **DONNARUMMA**	(20) 25.02.99
25	Pepe **REINA** (Spa)	(37) 31.08.82
84	Matteo **SONCIN**	(18) 28.03.01

DEFENDERS

2	Davide **CALABRIA**	(22) 06.12.96
31	Mattia **CALDARA**	(25) 05.05.94
12	Andrea **CONTI**	(25) 02.03.94
43	Leo **DUARTE** (Bra)	(23) 17.07.96
19	Theo **HERNANDEZ** (Fra)	(21) 06.10.97
22	Mateo **MUSACCHIO** (Arg)	(29) 26.08.90
68	Ricardo **RODRIGUEZ** (Swi)	(27) 25.08.92
13	Alessio **ROMAGNOLI**	(24) 12.01.95

MIDFIELDERS

4	Ismael **BENNACER** (Alg)	(21) 01.12.97
20	Lucas **BIGLIA** (Arg)	(33) 30.01.86
5	Giacomo **BONAVENTURA**	(30) 22.08.89
94	Marco **BRESCIANINI**	(19) 20.01.00
10	Hakan **CALHANOGLU** (Tur)	(25) 08.02.94
95	Andrea **CAPONE**	(17) 18.03.02
7	Samu **CASTILLEJO** (Spa)	(24) 18.01.95
46	Matteo **GABBIA**	(19) 21.10.99
79	Franck **KESSIE** (IvC)	(22) 19.12.96
33	Rade **KRUNIC** (Bos)	(25) 07.10.93
39	**LUCAS PAQUETA** (Bra)	(22) 27.08.97
98	Daniel **MALDINI**	(17) 11.10.01
88	Antonio **MIONIC** (Cro)	(18) 31.05.01
89	Alessandro **SALA**	(18) 07.05.01

FORWARDS

11	Fabio **BORINI**	(28) 29.03.91
17	Rafael **LEAO** (Por)	(20) 10.06.99
9	Krzysztof **PIATEK** (Pol)	(24) 01.07.95
18	Ante **REBIC** (Cro)	(26) 21.09.93
8	**SUSO** (Spa)	(25) 19.11.93

COACH

Marco **GIAMPAOLO**		(52) 02.08.67

NAPOLI

GOALKEEPERS

27	Orestis **KARNEZIS** (Gre)	(34) 11.07.85
1	Alex **MERET**	(22) 22.03.97
25	David **OSPINA** (Col)	(31) 31.08.88

DEFENDERS

22	Giovanni **DI LORENZO**	(26) 04.08.93
31	Faouzi **GHOULAM** (Alg)	(28) 01.02.91
23	Elseid **HYSAJ** (Alb)	(25) 02.02.94
26	Kalidou **KOULIBALY** (Fra)	(28) 20.06.91
13	Sebastiano **LUPERTO**	(23) 06.09.96
2	Kevin **MALCUIT** (Fra)	(28) 31.07.91
19	Nikola **MAKSIMOVIC** (Ser)	(27) 25.11.91
44	Kostas **MANOLAS** (Gre)	(28) 14.06.91
6	**MARIO RUI** (Por)	(28) 27.05.91
62	Lorenzo **TONELLI**	(29) 17.01.90

MIDFIELDERS

5	**ALLAN** (Bra)	(28) 08.01.91
18	Amato **CICIRETTI**	(25) 31.12.93
12	Elif **ELMAS** (NMa)	(20) 24.09.99
8	**FABIAN RUIZ** (Spa)	(23) 03.04.96
70	Gianluca **GAETANO**	(19) 05.05.00
20	Piotr **ZIELINSKI** (Pol)	(25) 20.05.94

FORWARDS

7	Jose **CALLEJON** (Spa)	(32) 11.02.87
24	Lorenzo **INSIGNE**	(28) 04.06.91
9	Fernando **LLORENTE** (Spa)	(34) 26.02.85
11	Hirving **LOZANO** (Mex)	(24) 30.07.95
14	Dries **MERTENS** (Blg)	(32) 06.05.87
99	Arkadiusz **MILIK** (Pol)	(25) 28.02.94
34	Amin **YOUNES** (Ger)	(26) 06.08.93

COACH

Carlo **ANCELOTTI**		(60) 10.06.59

PARMA

GOALKEEPERS

53	Fabrizio **ALASTRA**	(22) 01.10.97
34	Simone **COLOMBI**	(28) 01.07.91
1	Luigi **SEPE**	(28) 08.05.91

DEFENDERS

22	Bruno **ALVES** (Por)	(37) 27.11.81
36	Matteo **DARMIAN**	(29) 02.12.89
3	Kastriot **DERMAKU** (Alb)	(27) 15.01.92
28	Riccardo **GAGLIOLO**	(29) 28.04.90
2	Simone **IACOPONI**	(32) 30.04.87
16	Vincent **LAURINI** (Fra)	(30) 10.06.89
97	Giuseppe **PEZZELLA**	(21) 29.11.97

MIDFIELDERS

17	Antonino **BARILLA**	(31) 01.04.88
15	Gaston **BRUGMAN** (Uru)	(27) 07.09.92
8	Alberto **GRASSI**	(24) 07.03.95
10	**HERNANI** (Bra)	(25) 27.03.94
33	Juraj **KUCKA** (Slk)	(32) 26.02.87
44	Dejan **KULUSEVSKI** (Swe)	(19) 25.04.00
29	Gianni **MUNARI**	(36) 24.06.83
21	Matteo **SCOZZARELLA**	(31) 05.06.88
93	Mattia **SPROCATI**	(26) 28.04.93

FORWARDS

88	Andrea **ADORANTE**	(19) 05.02.00
11	Andreas **CORNELIUS** (Den)	(25) 16.03.93
27	**GERVINHO** (IvC)	(32) 27.05.87
9	Roberto **INGLESE**	(27) 12.11.91
7	Yann **KARAMOH** (Fra)	(21) 08.07.98
26	Luca **SILIGARDI**	(31) 26.01.88

COACH

Roberto **D'AVERSA**		(44) 12.08.75

ROMA

GOALKEEPERS

63	Daniel **FUZATO** (Bra)	(21) 04.07.97
13	Pau **LOPEZ** (Spa)	(24) 13.12.94
83	Antonio **MIRANTE**	(35) 08.07.83

DEFENDERS

-	William **BIANDA** (Fra)	(18) 30.04.00
15	Mert **CETIN** (Tur)	(22) 01.01.97
20	Federico **FAZIO** (Arg)	(31) 17.03.87
24	Alessandro **FLORENZI**	(27) 11.03.91
5	Juan **JESUS** (Bra)	(27) 10.06.91
11	Aleksandar **KOLAROV** (Ser)	(32) 10.11.85
23	Gianluca **MANCINI**	(22) 17.04.96
18	Davide **SANTON**	(27) 02.01.91
6	Chris **SMALLING** (Eng)	(29) 22.11.89
37	Leonardo **SPINAZZOLA**	(25) 25.03.93
2	Davide **ZAPPACOSTA** (Ita)	(27) 11.06.92

MIDFIELDERS

4	Bryan **CRISTANTE**	(23) 03.03.95
42	Amadou **DIAWARA** (Gui)	(22) 17.07.97
77	Henrikh **MKHITARYAN** (Arm)	(30) 21.01.89
27	Javier **PASTORE** (Arg)	(29) 20.06.89
7	Lorenzo **PELLEGRINI**	(22) 19.06.96
-	Alessio **RICCARDI**	(18) 03.04.01
21	Jordan **VERETOUT** (Fra)	(25) 01.03.93
22	Nicolo **ZANIOLO**	(19) 02.07.99

FORWARDS

48	Mirko **ANTONUCCI**	(20) 11.03.99
9	Edin **DZEKO** (Bos)	(32) 17.03.86
19	Nikola **KALINIC** (Cro)	(31) 05.01.88
99	Justin **KLUIVERT** (Hol)	(19) 05.05.99
8	Diego **PEROTTI** (Arg)	(30) 26.07.88
17	Cengiz **UNDER** (Tur)	(21) 14.07.97

COACH

Paulo **FONSECA** (Por)		(46) 05.03.73

SAMPDORIA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Emil **AUDERO**	(21) 18.01.97
35	Lorenzo **AVOGADRI**	(18) 21.08.01
30	Wladimiro **FALCONE** (Bra)	(24) 12.04.95
22	Andrea **SECULIN**	(29) 14.07.90

DEFENDERS

3	Tommaso **AUGELLO**	(25) 30.08.94
24	Bartosz **BERESZYNSKI** (Pol)	(26) 12.07.92
5	Julian **CHABOT** (Ger)	(21) 12.02.98
15	Omar **COLLEY** (Gam)	(25) 24.10.92
25	Alex **FERRARI**	(24) 01.07.94
21	Jeison **MURILLO** (Col)	(27) 27.05.92
29	Nicola **MURRU**	(23) 16.12.94
19	Vasco **REGINI**	(28) 09.09.90
33	Kaique **ROCHA** (Bra)	(18) 28.02.01

MIDFIELDERS

13	Mohamed **BAHLOULI**	(19) 17.02.00
8	Edgar **BARRETO** (Par)	(34) 15.07.84
12	Fabio **DEPAOLI**	(22) 24.04.97
6	Albin **EKDAL** (Swe)	(29) 28.07.89
14	Jakub **JANKTO** (CzR)	(22) 19.01.96
26	Mehdi **LERIS** (Fra)	(21) 23.05.98
7	Karol **LINETTY** (Pol)	(23) 02.02.95
20	Gonzalo **MARONI** (Arg)	(20) 18.03.99
11	Gaston **RAMIREZ** (Uru)	(27) 02.12.90
10	Emiliano **RIGONI** (Arg)	(26) 04.02.93
18	Morten **THORSBY** (Nor)	(23) 05.05.96
4	Ronaldo **VIEIRA** (Eng)	(20) 19.07.98

FORWARDS

9	Federico **BONAZZOLI**	(22) 21.05.97
17	Gianluca **CAPRARI**	(25) 30.07.93
23	Manolo **GABBIADINI**	(27) 26.11.91
27	Fabio **QUAGLIARELLA**	(35) 31.01.83

COACH

Eusebio **DI FRANCESCO**		(49) 08.09.69

SASSUOLO

GOALKEEPERS

47	Andrea **CONSIGLI**	(31) 27.01.87
56	Gianluca **PEGOLO**	(37) 25.03.81
64	Alessandro **RUSSO**	(18) 31.03.01

DEFENDERS

21	Vlad **CHIRCHES** (Rom)	(29) 14.11.89
31	Gian Marco **FERRARI**	(26) 15.02.92
77	Giorgos **KIRIAKOPOULOS** (Gre)	(23) 05.02.96
2	**MARLON** (Bra)	(23) 07.09.95
17	Mert **MULDUR** (Tur)	(20) 03.04.99
13	Federico **PELUSO**	(35) 20.01.84
6	**ROGERIO** (Bra)	(20) 13.01.98
19	Filippo **ROMAGNA**	(22) 26.05.97
22	Jeremy **TOLJAN** Ger)	(25) 08.08.94
33	Alessandro **TRIPALDELLI**	(20) 09.02.99

MIDFIELDERS

7	Jeremie **BOGA** (IvC)	(21) 03.01.97
68	Mehdi **BOURABIA** (Mor)	(27) 07.08.91
8	Alfred **DUNCAN** (Gha)	(25) 10.03.93
10	Filip **DURICIC** (Ser)	(26) 30.01.92
44	Andrea **GHION**	(19) 23.02.00
73	Manuel **LOCATELLI**	(20) 08.01.98
4	Francesco **MAGNANELLI**	(33) 12.11.84
36	Luca **MAZZITELLI**	(22) 15.11.95
14	Pedro **OBIANG** (EqG)	(27) 27.03.92
23	Hamed Junior **TRAORE** (IvC)	(19) 16.02.00

FORWARDS

25	Domenico **BERARDI**	(24) 01.08.94
9	Francesco **CAPUTO**	(32) 06.08.87
11	Gregoire **DEFREL** (Fra)	(28) 17.06.91
18	Giacomo **RASPADORI**	(19) 18.02.00

COACH

Roberto **DE ZERBI**		(39) 06.06.79

SPAL

GOALKEEPERS

99	Etrit **BERISHA** (Alb)	(30) 10.03.89
25	Karlo **LETICA** (Cro)	(22) 11.02.97
65	Marco **MENEGHETTI**	(18) 01.01.01
22	Demba **THIAM** (Sen)	(21) 09.03.98

DEFENDERS

67	Paolo **CANNISTRA**	(18) 03.11.00
4	Thiago **CIONEK** (Pol)	(32) 21.04.86
27	**FELIPE** (Bra)	(35) 31.07.84
3	**IGOR** (Bra)	(21) 07.02.98
26	Jacopo **SALA**	(27) 05.12.91
66	Bartosz **SALAMON** (Pol)	(28) 01.05.91
40	Nenad **TOMOVIC** (Ser)	(32) 30.08.87
23	Francesco **VICARI**	(25) 03.08.94

MIDFIELDERS

77	Marco **D'ALESSANDRO**	(28) 17.02.91
21	**ESPETO** (Bra)	(22) 18.04.97
93	Mohamed **FARES** (Alg)	(23) 15.02.96
95	Marko **JANKOVIC** (Mne)	(24) 09.07.95
19	Jasmin **KURTIC** (Sln)	(30) 10.01.89
7	Simone **MISSIROLI**	(33) 23.05.86
11	Alessandro **MURGIA**	(23) 09.08.96
13	Arkadiusz **RECA** (Pol)	(24) 17.06.95
6	Mirko **VALDIFIORI**	(33) 21.04.86
8	Mattia **VALOTI**	(26) 06.09.93

FORWARDS

31	Federico **DI FRANCESCO**	(25) 14.06.94
10	Sergio **FLOCCARI**	(37) 12.11.81
9	Gabriele **MONCINI**	(23) 26.04.96
43	Alberto **PALOSCHI**	(29) 04.01.90
37	Andrea **PETAGNA**	(24) 30.06.95

COACH

Leonardo **SEMPLICI**		(52) 19.07.67

TORINO

GOALKEEPERS

25	Antonio **ROSATI**	(36) 26.06.83
39	Salvatore **SIRIGU**	(32) 12.01.87
18	Samir **UJKANI** (Kos)	(31) 05.07.88

DEFENDERS

34	Ola **AINA** (Nga)	(22) 08.10.96
15	Cristian **ANSALDI** (Arg)	(33) 20.09.86
14	Kevin **BONIFAZI**	(23) 19.05.96
36	**BREMER** (Bra)	(22) 18.03.97
99	Alessandro **BUONGIORNO**	(20) 06.06.99
29	Lorenzo **DE SILVESTRI**	(31) 23.05.88
30	Koffi **DJIDJI** (IvC)	(26) 30.11.92
5	Armando **IZZO**	(27) 02.03.92
4	**LYANCO** (Bra)	(22) 01.02.97
33	Nicolas **N'KOULOU** (Cam)	(29) 27.03.90
17	Wilfried **SINGO** (IvC)	(18) 25.12.00

MIDFIELDERS

8	Daniele **BASELLI**	(27) 12.03.92
20	Simune **EDERA**	(22) 09.01.97
93	Diego **LAXALT** (Uru)	(26) 07.02.93
7	Sasa **LUKIC** (Ser)	(23) 13.08.96
23	Soualiho **MEITE** (Fra)	(25) 17.03.94
27	Vittorio **PARIGINI**	(23) 25.03.96
88	Tomas **RINCON** (Ven)	(31) 13.01.88

FORWARDS

9	Andrea **BELOTTI**	(25) 20.12.93
21	Alex **BERENGUER** (Spa)	(24) 04.07.95
10	Iago **FALQUE** (Spa)	(29) 04.01.90
90	Nicola **RAUTI**	(19) 17.04.00
24	Simone **VERDI**	(27) 12.07.92
11	Simone **ZAZA**	(28) 25.06.91

COACH

Walter **MAZZARRI**		(58) 01.10.61

UDINESE

GOALKEEPERS

1	Juan **MUSSO** (Arg)	(24) 06.05.94
88	**NICOLAS** (Bra)	(30) 12.04.88
27	Samuele **PERISAN**	(22) 21.08.97

DEFENDERS

87	Sebastian **DE MAIO** (Fra)	(31) 05.03.87
17	Bram **NUYTINCK** (Hol)	(28) 04.05.90
4	Nicholas **OPOKU** (Gha)	(21) 11.08.97
50	**RODRIGO BECAO** (Bra)	(23) 19.01.96
3	**SAMIR** (Bra)	(23) 05.12.94
2	Francisco **SIERRALTA** (Chl)	(22) 06.05.97
19	Jens **STRYGER LARSEN** (Den)	(27) 21.02.91
18	Hidde **TER AVEST** (Hol)	(21) 20.05.97
5	William **TROOST-EKONG** (Nga)	(25) 01.09.93

MIDFIELDERS

72	Antonin **BARAK** (CzR)	(23) 03.12.94
10	Rodrigo **DE PAUL** (Arg)	(24) 24.05.94
6	Seko **FOFANA** (IvC)	(23) 07.05.95
8	Mato **JAJALO** (Bos)	(31) 25.05.88
38	Rolando **MANDRAGORA**	(21) 29.06.97
23	Ignacio **PUSSETTO** (Arg)	(22) 21.12.95
12	Ken **SEMA** (Swe)	(25) 30.09.93
11	**WALACE** (Bra)	(24) 04.04.95

FORWARDS

15	Kevin **LASAGNA**	(26) 10.08.92
30	Ilija **NESTOROVSKI** (NMa)	(29) 12.03.90
7	Stefano **OKAKA**	(30) 09.08.89
91	Lukasz **TEODORCZYK** (Pol)	(27) 03.06.91

COACH

Igor **TUDOR** (Cro)		(41) 16.04.78

VERONA

GOALKEEPERS

22	Alessandro **BERARDI**	(28) 16.01.91
96	Boris **RADUNOVIC** (Ser)	(23) 26.05.96
1	Marco **SILVESTRI**	(28) 02.03.91

DEFENDERS

98	Claud **ADJAPONG**	(21) 06.05.98
15	Salvatore **BOCCHETTI**	(32) 30.11.86
17	Alessandro **CRESCENZI**	(27) 25.09.91
27	Pawel **DAWIDOWICZ** (Pol)	(24) 20.05.95
33	Alan **EMPEREUR** (Bra)	(25) 10.03.94
5	Davide **FARAONI**	(27) 25.10.91
21	Koray **GUNTER** (Ger)	(25) 16.08.94
24	Marash **KUMBULLA** (Alb)	(19) 08.02.00
13	Amir **RRAHMANI** (Kos)	(25) 24.02.94
3	Luigi **VITALE**	(31) 05.10.87
30	**WESLEY** (Bra)	(19) 13.03.00

MIDFIELDERS

7	Emmanuel **AGYEMANG-BADU** (Gha)	(28) 02.12.90
34	Sofyan **AMRABAT** (Mor)	(23) 21.08.96
-	Daniel **BESSA**	(26) 14.01.93
25	Andrea **DANZI**	(20) 25.02.99
23	Antonio **DI GAUDIO**	(30) 16.08.89
18	Lucas **FELIPPE** (Bra)	(19) 03.05.00
8	Liam **HENDERSON** (Sco)	(23) 25.04.96
88	Darko **LAZOVIC** (Ser)	(29) 15.09.90
32	Matteo **PESSINA**	(22) 21.04.97
4	Miguel **VELOSO** (Por)	(33) 11.05.86
14	Valerio **VERRE**	(25) 11.01.94
20	Mattia **ZACCAGNI**	(24) 16.06.95

FORWARDS

10	Samuel **DI CARMINE**	(31) 29.09.88
11	Giampaolo **PAZZINI**	(35) 02.08.84
29	Eddie **SALCEDO**	(18) 01.10.01
9	Mariusz **STEPINSKI** (Pol)	(24) 12.05.95
19	ubomír **TUPTA** (Slk)	(21) 27.03.98
66	Gennaro **TUTINO**	(23) 20.08.96

COACH

Ivan **JURIC** (Cro)		(44) 25.08.75

(ages as of 04.10.19)

SPAIN: LA LIGA 2019-20

ALAVES

GOALKEEPERS

1 Fernando **PACHECO** (27) 18.05.92
13 Antonio **SIVERA** (23) 11.08.96

DEFENDERS

21 Martin **AGUIRREGABIRIA** (23) 10.05.96
3 Ruben **DUARTE** (23) 18.10.95
4 Rodrigo **ELY** (Bra) (25) 03.11.93
5 Victor **LAGUARDIA** (29) 05.11.89
6 Lisandro **MAGALLAN** (Arg) (26) 27.09.93
17 Adrian **MARIN** (22) 09.01.97
- Rafa **NAVARRO** (25) 24.02.94
23 Ximo **NAVARRO** (29) 23.01.90
27 **TACHI** (22) 10.09.97

MIDFIELDERS

14 **BURGUI** (25) 29.10.93
24 Oliver **BURKE** (Sco) (22) 07.04.97
19 Manu **GARCIA** (33) 26.04.86
15 Javi **MUNOZ** (24) 28.02.95
8 Tomas **PINA** (31) 14.10.87
20 Pere **PONS** (26) 20.02.93
29 Borja **SAINZ** (18) 01.02.01
16 Dani **TORRES** (Col) (29) 15.11.89
18 Aleix **VIDAL** (30) 21.08.89
22 Mubarak **WAKASO** (Gha) (29) 25.07.90

FORWARDS

10 John **GUIDETTI** (Swe) (27) 15.04.92
9 **JOSELU** (29) 27.03.90
7 Lucas **PEREZ** (31) 10.09.88
11 Luis **RIOJA** (25) 16.10.93

COACH

Asier **GARITANO** (49) 06.12.69

ATHLETIC BILBAO

GOALKEEPERS

31 Jokin **EZKIETA** (23) 17.08.96
13 Iago **HERRERIN** (31) 25.01.88
1 Unai **SIMON** (22) 11.06.97

DEFENDERS

24 Mikel **BALENZIAGA** (31) 29.02.88
21 Ander **CAPA** (27) 14.05.92
18 Oscar **DE MARCOS** (30) 14.04.89
2 Cristian **GANEA** (Rom) (26) 24.05.92
15 Inigo **LEKUE** (26) 04.05.93
4 Inigo **MARTINEZ** (28) 17.05.91
3 Unai **NUNEZ** (22) 30.01.97
29 Dani **VIVIAN** (20) 05.07.99
5 **YERAY** (24) 24.01.95
17 **YURI** (29) 10.02.90

MIDFIELDERS

7 **BENAT** (32) 19.02.87
11 Inigo **CORDOBA** (22) 13.03.97
14 Dani **GARCIA** (29) 24.05.90
22 Raul **GARCIA** (33) 11.07.86
19 Ibai **GOMEZ** (29) 11.11.89
12 Gaizka **LARRAZABAL** (21) 17.12.97
8 Unai **LOPEZ** (23) 30.10.95
34 Oihan **SANCET** (19) 25.04.00
6 Mikel **SAN JOSE** (30) 30.05.89
16 Mikel **VESGA** (26) 08.04.93

FORWARDS

20 Aritz **ADURIZ** (38) 11.02.81
30 Gorka **GURUZETA** (23) 12.09.96
23 Kenan **KODRO** (Bos) (26) 19.08.93
10 Iker **MUNIAIN** (26) 19.12.92
25 Asier **VILLALIBRE** (22) 30.09.97
9 Inaki **WILLIAMS** (25) 15.06.94

COACH

Gaizka **GARITANO** (44) 09.07.75

ATLETICO MADRID

GOALKEEPERS

1 Antonio **ADAN** (32) 13.05.87
13 Jan **OBLAK** (Sln) (26) 07.01.93

DEFENDERS

4 Santiago **ARIAS** (Col) (27) 13.01.92
18 **FELIPE** (Bra) (30) 16.05.89
2 Jose **GIMENEZ** (Uru) (24) 20.01.95
22 Mario **HERMOSO** (24) 18.06.95
12 Renan **LODI** (Bra) (21) 08.04.98
35 Manu **SANCHEZ** (19) 24.08.00
15 Stefan **SAVIC** (Mne) (28) 08.01.91
23 Kieran **TRIPPIER** (Eng) (29) 19.09.90
24 Sime **VRSALJKO** (Cro) (27) 10.01.92

MIDFIELDERS

16 Hector **HERRERA** (Mex) (29) 19.04.90
6 **KOKE** (27) 08.01.92
11 Thomas **LEMAR** (Fra) (23) 12.11.95
5 Thomas **PARTEY** (Gha) (26) 13.07.93
32 Rodrigo **RIQUELME** (19) 02.04.00
8 **SAUL** (24) 21.11.94
20 **VITOLO** (29) 02.11.89

FORWARDS

10 Angel **CORREA** (Arg) (24) 09.03.95
19 Diego **COSTA** (Spa) (30) 07.10.88
7 **JOAO FELIX** (Por) (19) 10.11.99
14 Marcos **LLORENTE** (24) 30.01.95
9 Alvaro **MORATA** (26) 23.10.92
SAPONJIC (Ser) (22) 02.08.97

COACH

Diego **SIMEONE** (Arg) (49) 28.04.70

BARCELONA

GOALKEEPERS

13 **NETO** (Bra) (30) 19.07.89
26 Inaki **PENA** (20) 02.03.99
1 Marc-Andre **TER STEGEN** (Ger) (26) 30.04.92

DEFENDERS

18 Jordi **ALBA** (29) 21.03.89
24 Junior **FIRPO** (23) 22.08.96
15 Clement **LENGLET** (Fra) (23) 17.06.95
3 Gerard **PIQUE** (31) 02.02.87
2 Nelson **SEMEDO** (Por) (24) 16.11.93
6 Jean-Clair **TODIBO** (Fra) (19) 30.12.99
23 Samuel **UMTITI** (Fra) (24) 14.11.93
16 Moussa **WAGUE** (Sen) (20) 04.10.98

MIDFIELDERS

19 Carles **ALENA** (21) 05.01.98
8 **ARTHUR** (Bra) (22) 12.08.96
5 Sergio **BUSQUETS** (30) 16.07.88
21 Frenkie **DE JONG** (Hol) (22) 12.05.97
4 Ivan **RAKITIC** (Cro) (30) 10.03.88
20 Sergi **ROBERTO** (26) 07.02.92
22 Arturo **VIDAL** (Chl) (31) 22.05.87

FORWARDS

11 Ousmane **DEMBELE** (Fra) (21) 15.05.97
31 Ansu **FATI** (16) 31.10.02
17 Antoine **GRIEZMANN** (Fra) (28) 21.03.91
10 Lionel **MESSI** (Arg) (31) 24.06.87
27 Carles **PEREZ** (21) 16.02.98
9 Luis **SUAREZ** (Uru) (31) 24.01.87

COACH

Ernesto **VALVERDE** (54) 09.02.64

CELTA VIGO

GOALKEEPERS

1 Sergio **ALVAREZ** (33) 03.08.86
13 Ruben **BLANCO** (24) 25.07.95
25 Ivan **VILLAR** (22) 09.07.97

DEFENDERS

18 Joseph **AIDOO** (Gha) (24) 29.09.95
4 Nestor **ARAUJO** (Mex) (28) 29.08.91
3 David **COSTAS** (24) 26.03.95
17 David **JUNCA** (25) 16.11.93
2 Hugo **MALLO** (28) 22.06.91
15 Lucas **OLAZA** (Arg) (25) 21.07.94
16 Jorge **SAENZ** (22) 17.11.96
20 Kevin **VAZQUEZ** (26) 23.03.93

MIDFIELDERS

8 Fran **BELTRAN** (20) 03.02.99
28 Sergio **BERMEJO** (22) 17.08.97
24 Pape Cheikh **DIOP** (22) 08.08.97
14 Stanislav **LOBOTKA** (Slk) (24) 25.11.94
23 Brais **MENDEZ** (22) 07.01.97
12 **RAFINHA** (Bra) (26) 12.02.93
6 Denis **SUAREZ** (25) 06.01.94
5 Okay **YOKUSLU** (Tur) (25) 09.03.94

FORWARDS

10 Iago **ASPAS** (32) 11.08.87
9 Claudio **BEAUVUE** (Gdp) (31) 16.04.88
19 Gabriel **FERNANDEZ** (Uru) (25) 13.05.94
7 Juan **HERNANDEZ** (24) 06.12.94
36 Iker **LOSADA** (18) 01.08.01
22 Santi **MINA** (23) 07.12.95
11 Pione **SISTO** (Den) (24) 04.02.95

COACH

Fran **ESCRIBA** (54) 03.05.65

EIBAR

GOALKEEPERS

1 Marko **DMITROVIC** (Ser) (27) 24.01.92
13 **YOEL** (31) 28.08.88

DEFENDERS

15 Jose **ANGEL** (30) 05.09.89
23 Anaitz **ARBILLA** (32) 15.05.87
2 Esteban **RURGOS** (Arg) (27) 09.01.92
3 Pedro **BIGAS** (29) 15.05.90
20 Rober **CORREA** (27) 20.09.92
12 Paulo **OLIVEIRA** (Por) (27) 08.01.92
4 Ivan **RAMIS** (34) 25.10.84
24 Alvaro **TEJERO** (23) 20.07.96

MIDFIELDERS

6 Sergio **ALVAREZ** (27) 23.01.92
16 Pablo **DE BLASIS** (Arg) (31) 04.02.88
8 Pape **DIOP** (Sen) (33) 19.03.86
5 Gonzalo **ESCALANTE** (Arg) (26) 27.03.93
10 Edu **EXPOSITO** (23) 01.08.96
22 Takashi **INUI** (Jap) (31) 02.06.88
21 Pedro **LEON** (32) 24.11.86
14 Fabian **ORELLANA** (Chl) (33) 27.01.86

FORWARDS

19 **CHARLES** (Bra) (35) 04.04.84
9 Sergi **ENRICH** (29) 26.02.90
17 **KIKE** (29) 25.11.89
7 Quique **GONZALEZ** (29) 16.05.90

COACH

Jose Luis **MENDILIBAR** (58) 14.03.61

ESPANYOL

GOALKEEPERS

27 Adrian **LOPEZ** (20) 09.01.99
13 Diego **LOPEZ** (37) 03.11.81
1 Andres **PRIETO** (25) 17.10.93

DEFENDERS

24 Fernando **CALERO** (24) 14.09.95
18 Sebastien **CORCHIA** (Fra) (28) 01.11.90
20 Bernardo **ESPINOSA** (Col) (30) 11.07.89
15 David **LOPEZ** (29) 09.10.89
16 Javi **LOPEZ** (33) 21.01.86
6 Lluis **LOPEZ** (22) 05.03.97
5 **NALDO** (Bra) (31) 28.08.88
3 Adria **PEDROSA** (21) 13.05.98
2 **PIPA** (21) 26.01.98
17 Didac **VILA** (30) 09.06.89

MIDFIELDERS

10 Sergi **DARDER** (25) 22.12.93
23 Esteban **GRANERO** (32) 02.07.87
8 Ander **ITURRASPE** (30) 08.03.89
26 Pol **LOZANO** (19) 06.10.99
33 Nico **MELAMED** (18) 11.04.01
14 Oscar **MELENDO** (22) 23.08.97
19 Pablo **PIATTI** (Arg) (30) 31.03.89
21 Marc **ROCA** (22) 26.11.96
4 Victor **SANCHEZ** (32) 08.09.87
22 Matias **VARGAS** (Arg) (22) 08.05.97

FORWARDS

12 Jonathan **CALLERI** (Arg) (26) 23.09.93
31 Víctor **CAMPUZANO** (22) 31.05.97
9 Facundo **FERREYRA** (Arg) (28) 14.03.91
11 Javi **PUADO** (21) 25.05.98
7 **WU** Lei (Chn) (27) 19.11.91

COACH

David **GALLEGO** (47) 26.01.72

GETAFE

GOALKEEPERS

1 Leandro **CHICHIZOLA** (Arg) (29) 27.03.90
- Filip **MANOJLOVIC** (Ser) (23) 25.04.96
13 David **SORIA** (26) 04.04.93

DEFENDERS

3 Vitorino **ANTUNES** (Por) (32) 01.04.87
4 **BRUNO** (29) 24.05.90
6 Leandro **CABRERA** (Uru) (28) 17.06.91
15 Marc **CUCURELLA** (21) 22.07.98
2 Djene **DAKONAM** (Tog) (27) 31.12.91
16 Xabier **ETXEITA** (31) 31.10.87
14 Raul **GARCIA** (30) 30.04.89
12 Allan **NYOM** (Cam) (31) 10.05.88
17 Mathias **OLIVERA** (Uru) (21) 31.10.97
22 Damian **SUAREZ** (Uru) (31) 27.04.88

MIDFIELDERS

18 Mauro **ARAMBARRI** (Uru) (24) 30.09.95
5 Markel **BERGARA** (33) 05.05.86
21 Faycal **FAJR** (Mor) (31) 01.08.88
23 **JASON** (25) 06.07.94
25 **KENEDY** (Bra) (23) 08.02.96
20 Nemanja **MAKSIMOVIC** (Ser) (24) 26.01.95
8 Francisco **PORTILLO** (29) 13.06.90
24 David **TIMOR** (29) 17.10.89

FORWARDS

9 **ANGEL** (32) 26.04.87
10 Enric **GALLEGO** (33) 12.09.86
7 Jaime **MATA** (30) 24.10.88
19 Jorge **MOLINA** (37) 22.04.82
11 Amath **NDIAYE** (Sen) (23) 16.07.96

COACH

Jose **BORDALAS** (55) 05.03.64

GRANADA

GOALKEEPERS

13 Aaron **ESCANDELL** (23) 27.09.95
1 Rui **SILVA** (Por) (25) 07.02.94

DEFENDERS

16 Victor **DIAZ** (31) 12.06.88
22 Domingos **DUARTE** (Por) (24) 10.03.95
6 **GERMAN** (32) 12.12.86
11 Ismail **KOYBASI** (Tur) (30) 10.07.89
18 Neyder **LOZANO** (Col) (25) 04.03.94
3 Alex **MARTINEZ** (29) 12.08.90
5 Jose **MARTINEZ** (26) 12.02.93
15 Carlos **NEVA** (23) 12.06.96
17 **QUINI** (30) 24.09.89

MIDFIELDERS

12 Ramon **AZEEZ** (Nga) (26) 12.12.92
8 Yan **ETEKI** (Cam) (22) 26.08.97
4 Maxime **GONALONS** (Fra) (30) 10.03.89
21 Yangel **HERRERA** (Ven) (21) 07.01.98
19 Angel **MONTORO** (31) 25.06.88
7 Alvaro **VADILLO** (25) 12.09.94
14 Fede **VICO** (25) 04.07.94

FORWARDS

24 Carlos **FERNANDEZ** (23) 22.05.96
23 Darwin **MACHIS** (Ven) (26) 07.02.93
10 Antonio **PUERTAS** (27) 21.02.92
20 Adrian **RAMOS** (Col) (33) 22.01.86
9 Roberto **SOLDADO** (34) 27.05.85

COACH

Diego **MARTINEZ** (36) 16.12.80

LEGANES

GOALKEEPERS

1 Pichu **CUELLAR** (35) 27.05.84
30 Andre **GRANDI** (Bra) (22) 02.05.97
13 Juan **SORIANO** (22) 23.08.97

DEFENDERS

12 Chidozie **AWAZIEM** (Nga) (22) 01.01.97
3 Unai **BUSTINZA** (27) 02.02.92
23 Vasyl **KRAVETS** (Ukr) (22) 20.08.97
2 Marc **NAVARRO** (24) 02.07.95
4 Kenneth **OMERUO** (Nga) (25) 17.10.93
24 Kevin **RODRIGUES** (Por) (25) 05.03.94
16 Roberto **ROSALES** (Ven) (30) 20.11.88
5 Jonathan **SILVA** (Arg) (25) 29.06.94
22 Dimitris **SIOVAS** (Gre) (31) 16.09.88
15 Rodrigo **TARIN** (23) 05.07.96

MIDFIELDERS

17 Javier **ERASO** (29) 22.03.90
6 Roque **MESA** (30) 07.06.89
21 Ruben **PEREZ** (30) 26.04.89
8 **RECIO** (28) 11.01.91
14 Christian **RIVERA** (22) 09.07.97
27 **OSCAR** (21) 28.06.98
11 Alexander **SZYMANOWSKI** (Arg) (30) 13.10.88
20 Federico **VARELA** (Arg) (23) 07.05.96

FORWARDS

10 Jose **ARNAIZ** (24) 15.04.95
33 Javier **AVILES** (22) 17.08.97
7 Martin **BRAITHWAITE** (Den) (28) 05.06.91
18 Guido **CARRILLO** (Arg) (28) 25.05.91
26 Youssef **EN-NESYRI** (Mor) (22) 01.06.97
9 Sabin **MERINO** (27) 04.01.92
19 Aitor **RUIBAL** (23) 22.03.96

COACH

Mauricio **PELLEGRINO** (Arg) (47) 05.10.71

LEVANTE

GOALKEEPERS

13 Aitor **FERNANDEZ** (28) 03.05.91
1 Oier **OLAZABAL** (29) 14.09.89

DEFENDERS

18 Erick **CABACO** (Uru) (24) 19.04.95
19 Carlos **CLERC** (27) 21.02.92
23 **COKE** (32) 26.04.87
6 Oscar **DUARTE** (CR) (30) 03.06.89
2 Ivan **LOPEZ** (26) 23.08.93
20 Jorge **MIRAMON** (30) 02.06.89
15 Sergio **POSTIGO** (30) 04.11.88
4 **ROBER** (24) 16.02.95
3 **TONO** (29) 07.11.89
14 Ruben **VEZO** (Por) (25) 25.04.94

MIDFIELDERS

10 Enis **BARDHI** (NMa) (24) 02.07.95
24 Jose **CAMPANA** (26) 30.05.93
22 Gonzalo **MELERO** (25) 02.01.94
11 Jose Luis **MORALES** (32) 23.07.87
5 Nemanja **RADOJA** (Ser) (26) 06.02.93
16 Ruben **ROCHINA** (28) 23.03.91
17 Nikola **VUKCEVIC** (Mne) (27) 03.12.91

FORWARDS

8 **HERNANI** (Por) (28) 20.08.91
7 Sergio **LEON** (30) 06.01.89
21 Borja **MAYORAL** (22) 04.04.97
9 **ROGER** (28) 03.01.91

COACH

Paco **LOPEZ** (52) 19.09.67

MALLORCA

GOALKEEPERS

13 **FABRI** (31) 31.12.87
25 Miquel **PARERA** (23) 18.05.96
1 Manolo **REINA** (34) 01.04.85

DEFENDERS

3 Lumor **AGBENYENU** (Gha) (23) 15.08.96
5 Xisco **CAMPOS** (37) 10.03.82
15 Fran **GAMEZ** (28) 27.07.91
18 Baba **RAHMAN** (Gha) (25) 02.07.94
21 Antonio **RAILLO** (27) 08.10.91
2 Joan **SASTRE** (22) 30.04.97
20 Aleksandar **SEDLAR** (27) 13.12.91
24 Martin **VALJENT** (Slk) (23) 11.12.95

MIDFIELDERS

12 Iddrisu **BABA** (Gha) (23) 22.01.96
23 Aleix **FEBAS** (23) 02.02.96
26 Takefusa **KUBO** (Jap) (18) 04.06.01
6 Marc **PEDRAZA** (32) 06.02.87
14 Dani **RODRIGUEZ** (31) 06.06.88
8 Salva **SEVILLA** (35) 18.03.84
4 Josep **SENE** (27) 10.12.91

FORWARDS

9 **ABDON** (26) 07.12.92
10 Alex **ALEGRIA** (26) 10.10.92
22 Ante **BUDIMIR** (Cro) (28) 22.07.91
7 Aridai **CABRERA** (31) 26.09.88
19 Pablo **CHAVARRIA** (Arg) (31) 02.01.88
27 Cucho **HERNANDEZ** (Col) (20) 20.04.99
11 Junior **LAGO** (IvC) (28) 31.12.90
16 Yannis **SALIBUR** (Fra) (28) 24.01.91
17 Aleksandar **TRAJKOVSKI** (NMa) (27) 05.09.92

COACH

Vicente **MORENO** (44) 26.10.74

OSASUNA

GOALKEEPERS

1 Sergio **HERRERA** (26) 05.06.93
13 Ruben **MARTINEZ** (35) 22.06.84

DEFENDERS

23 **ARIDANE** (30) 23.03.89
16 Lillo **CASTELLANO** (30) 27.03.89
30 Pervis **ESTUPINAN** (Ecu) (21) 21.01.98
5 David **GARCIA** (25) 14.02.94
4 Unai **GARCIA** (27) 03.02.92
29 Endika **IRIGOIEN** (22) 25.01.97
3 Raul **NAVAS** (31) 11.05.88
6 **OIER** (33) 25.05.86
12 Facundo **RONCAGLIA** (Arg) (32) 10.02.87
2 Nacho **VIDAL** (24) 24.01.95

MIDFIELDERS

20 Darko **BRASANAC** (Ser) (27) 12.02.92
14 Ruben **GARCIA** (26) 14.07.93
17 Rober **IBANEZ** (26) 22.03.93
8 Fran **MERIDA** (29) 04.03.90
27 Jon **MONCAYOLA** (21) 13.05.98
28 Luis **PEREA** (22) 25.08.97
21 Inigo **PEREZ** (31) 18.01.88
10 Roberto **TORRES** (30) 07.03.89

FORWARDS

9 Chimy **AVILA** (Arg) (25) 06.02.94
19 Kike **BARJA** (22) 19.05.88
11 **BRANDON** (24) 04.02.95
7 Marc **CARDONA** (24) 08.07.95
22 Adrian **LOPEZ** (31) 08.01.88
18 Juan **VILLAR** (31) 19.05.88

COACH

Jagoba **ARRASATE** (41) 22.04.78

REAL BETIS

GOALKEEPERS

13 Dani **MARTIN** (21) 08.07.98
30 Dani **REBOLLO** (19) 10.12.99
1 Joel **ROBLES** (29) 17.06.90

DEFENDERS

19 Antonio **BARRAGAN** (32) 12.06.87
5 Marc **BARTRA** (28) 15.01.91
22 **EMERSON** (Bra) (20) 14.01.99
4 Zouhair **FEDDAL** (Mor) (30) 01.01.89
2 **FRANCIS** (23) 11.02.96
23 Aissa **MANDI** (Alg) (27) 22.10.91
15 Alex **MORENO** (26) 08.06.93
6 Alfonso **PEDRAZA** (23) 09.04.96
12 **SIDNEI** (Bra) (30) 23.08.89

MIDFIELDERS

10 Sergio **CANALES** (28) 16.02.91
14 William **CARVALHO** (Por) (27) 07.04.92
18 Andres **GUARDADO** (Mex) (33) 28.09.86
3 Javi **GARCIA** (32) 08.02.87
17 **JOAQUIN** (38) 21.07.81
21 Wilfrid **KAPTOUM** (Cam) (23) 07.07.96
20 Diego **LAINEZ** (Mex) (19) 09.06.00

FORWARDS

8 Nabil **FEKIR** (Fra) (26) 18.07.93
9 Borja **IGLESIAS** (26) 17.01.93
7 **JUANMI** (26) 20.05.93
16 Loren **MORON** (25) 30.12.93
11 Cristian **TELLO** (28) 11.08.91

COACH

RUBI (49) 05.02.70

REAL MADRID

GOALKEEPERS

1 Alphonse **AREOLA** (Fra) (26) 27.02.93
13 Thibaut **COURTOIS** (Blg) (27) 11.05.92

DEFENDERS

2 Dani **CARVAJAL** (27) 11.01.92
12 **MARCELO** (Bra) (31) 12.05.88
23 Ferland **MENDY** (Fra) (24) 08.06.95
3 Eder **MILITAO** (Bra) (21) 18.01.98
6 **NACHO** (29) 18.01.90
19 Alvaro **ODRIOZOLA** (23) 14.12.95
4 Sergio **RAMOS** (33) 30.03.86
5 Raphael **VARANE** (Fra) (26) 25.04.93

MIDFIELDERS

14 **CASEMIRO** (Bra) (27) 23.02.92
22 **ISCO** (27) 21.04.92
8 Toni **KROOS** (Ger) (29) 04.01.90
10 Luka **MODRIC** (Cro) (34) 09.09.85
16 James **RODRIGUEZ** (Col) (28) 12.07.91
15 Federico **VALVERDE** (Uru) (21) 22.07.98

FORWARDS

20 Marco **ASENSIO** (23) 21.01.96
11 Gareth **BALE** (Wal) (30) 16.07.89
9 Karim **BENZEMA** (Fra) (31) 19.12.87
21 Brahim **DIAZ** (20) 03.08.99
24 Mariano **DIAZ** (DoR) (26) 01.08.93
7 Eden **HAZARD** (Blg) (28) 07.01.91
18 Luka **JOVIC** (Ser) (21) 23.12.97
27 **RODRYGO** (Bra) (18) 09.01.01
17 Lucas **VAZQUEZ** (28) 01.07.91
25 **VINICIUS JUNIOR** (Bra) (19) 12.07.00

COACH

Zinedine **ZIDANE** (Fra) (47) 23.06.72

REAL SOCIEDAD

GOALKEEPERS

13 Miguel Angel **MOYA** (35) 02.04.84
1 Alex **REMIRO** (24) 24.03.95
30 Andoni **ZUBIAURRE** (22) 04.12.96

DEFENDERS

33 Aritz **ARANBARRI** (21) 31.01.98
6 Aritz **ELUSTONDO** (25) 11.01.94
18 Andoni **GOROSABEL** (23) 04.08.96
24 Robin **LE NORMAND** (Fra) (22) 11.11.96
3 Diego **LLORENTE** (26) 16.08.93
20 Nacho **MONREAL** (Spa) (33) 26.02.86
12 Ahien **MUNOZ** (22) 16.08.97
15 Modibo **SAGNAN** (Fra) (20) 14.04.99
2 Joseba **ZALDUA** (27) 24.06.92

MIDFIELDERS

16 Ander **GUEVARA** (22) 07.07.97
4 Asier **ILLARRAMENDI** (29) 08.03.90
11 Adnan **JANUZAJ** (Blg) (24) 05.02.95
8 Mikel **MERINO** (23) 22.06.96
21 Martin **ODEGAARD** (Nor) (20) 17.12.98
14 Ruben **PARDO** (26) 22.10.92
23 Luca **SANGALLI** (24) 10.02.95
5 Igor **ZUBELDIA** (22) 30.03.97
17 David **ZURUTUZA** (33) 19.07.86

FORWARDS

22 Ander **BARRENETXEA** (17) 27.12.01
19 Alexander **ISAK** (Swe) (20) 21.09.99
10 Mikel **OYARZABAL** (22) 21.04.97
7 **PORTU** (27) 21.05.92
9 **WILLIAN JOSE** (Bra) (27) 23.11.91

COACH

Imanol **ALGUACIL** (48) 04.07.71

REAL VALLADOLID

GOALKEEPERS

13 Andriy **LUNIN** (Ukr) (20) 11.02.99
1 Jordi **MASIP** (30) 03.01.89

DEFENDERS

18 **ANTONITO** (31) 24.12.87
3 Federico **BARBA** (Ita) (26) 01.09.93
4 **KIKO** (31) 21.08.88
17 Javi **MOYANO** (33) 23.02.86
2 Pedro **PORRO** (20) 13.09.99
27 Mohamed **SALISU** (Gha) (20) 17.04.99
5 Javier **SANCHEZ** (22) 14.03.97

MIDFIELDERS

15 Alvaro **AGUADO** (23) 01.05.96
14 Ruben **ALCARAZ** (28) 01.05.91
16 **FEDE** (22) 16.03.97
24 Joaqun **FERNANDEZ** (23) 31.05.96
11 Pablo **HERVIAS** (26) 08.03.93
6 **LUISMI** (27) 05.05.92
22 Nacho **MARTINEZ** (30) 07.03.89
21 **MICHEL** (31) 29.07.88
19 **TONI** (24) 07.01.95
8 Anuar **TUHAMI** (Mor) (24) 15.01.95

FORWARDS

12 Jorge **DE FRUTOS** (22) 20.02.97
7 Sergi **GUARDIOLA** (28) 29.05.91
29 **MIGUELIN** (20) 03.09.99
10 Oscar **PLANO** (28) 11.02.91
31 Stiven **PLAZA** (Ecu) (20) 11.03.99
20 Sandro **RAMIREZ** (24) 09.07.95
23 Waldo **RUBIO** (24) 17.08.95
9 Enes **UNAL** (Tur) (22) 10.05.97

COACH

Sergio **GONZALEZ** (42) 10.11.76

SEVILLA

GOALKEEPERS

13 Yassine **BOUNOU** (Mor) (28) 05.04.91
31 Javi **DIAZ** (22) 15.05.97
1 Tomas **VACLIK** (CzR) (30) 29.03.89

DEFENDERS

6 Daniel **CARRICO** (Por) (31) 04.08.88
20 **DIEGO CARLOS** (Bra) (26) 15.03.93
18 Sergio **ESCUDERO** (30) 02.09.89
3 Sergi **GOMEZ** (27) 28.03.92
12 Jules **KOUNDE** (Fra) (20) 12.11.98
23 Sergio **REGUILON** (22) 16.12.96

MIDFIELDERS

10 Ever **BANEGA** (Arg) (31) 29.06.88
25 **FERNANDO** (Bra) (32) 25.07.87
17 Nemanja **GUDELJ** (Ser) (27) 16.11.91
24 Joan **JORDAN** (25) 06.07.94
16 Jesus **NAVAS** (33) 21.11.85
5 Lucas **OCAMPOS** (Arg) (25) 11.07.94
21 Oliver **TORRES** (24) 10.11.94
22 Franco **VAZQUEZ** (Ita) (30) 22.02.89

FORWARDS

9 Moanes **DABOUR** (Isr) (27) 14.05.92
19 Luuk **DE JONG** (Hol) (29) 27.08.90
30 Bryan **GIL** (18) 11.01.01
14 Javier **HERNANDEZ** (Mex) (31) 01.06.88
7 Rony **LOPES** (Por) (23) 28.12.95
11 **MUNIR** (24) 01.09.95
8 **NOLITO** (32) 15.10.86
15 Alejandro **POZO** (20) 22.02.99

COACH

Julen **LOPETEGUI** (53) 28.08.66

VALENCIA

GOALKEEPERS

13 Jesper **CILLESSEN** (Hol) (30) 22.04.89
1 Jaume **DOMENECH** (28) 05.11.90

DEFENDERS

2 Thierry **CORREIA** (Por) (20) 09.03.99
3 Jaume **COSTA** (31) 18.03.88
12 Mouctar **DIAKHABY** (Fra) (22) 19.12.96
5 **GABRIEL PAULISTA** (Bra) (28) 26.11.90
24 Ezequiel **GARAY** (Arg) (32) 10.10.86
14 Jose Luis **GAYA** (24) 25.05.95
4 Eliaquim **MANGALA** (Fra) (28) 13.02.91
21 Cristiano **PICCINI** (Ita) (27) 26.09.92

MIDFIELDERS

11 Denis **CHERYSHEV** (Rus) (28) 26.12.90
17 Francis **COCQUELIN** (Fra) (28) 13.05.91
7 Goncalo **GUEDES** (Por) (22) 29.11.96
6 Geoffrey **KONDOGBIA** (Fra) (26)15.02.93
16 **LEE** Kang-In (SKo) (18) 19.02.01
10 Dani **PAREJO** (30) 16.04.89
8 Carlos **SOLER** (22) 02.01.97
20 Ferran **TORRES** (19) 29.02.00
18 Daniel **WASS** (Den) (30) 31.05.89

FORWARDS

9 Kevin **GAMEIRO** (Fra) (32) 09.04.87
22 Maxi **GOMEZ** (Uru) (23) 14.08.96
19 **RODRIGO** (28) 06.03.91
23 Ruben **SOBRINO** (27) 01.06.92
15 Manu **VALLEJO** (22) 14.02.97

COACH

Albert **CELADES** (44) 29.09.75

VILLARREAL

GOALKEEPERS

1 Sergio **ASENJO** (30) 28.06.89
25 Mariano **BARBOSA** (Arg) (35) 27.07.84
13 Andres **FERNANDEZ** (32) 17.12.86

DEFENDERS

3 Raul **ALBIOL** (34) 04.09.85
6 Ramiro **FUNES MORI** (Arg) (28) 05.03.91
2 Mario **GASPAR** (28) 24.11.90
18 Alberto **MORENO** (27) 05.07.92
16 Xavi **QUINTILLA** (23) 12.08.96
4 Pau **TORRES** (22) 16.01.97

MIDFIELDERS

21 **BRUNO** Soriano (35) 12.06.84
5 Santiago **CASERES** (Arg) (22) 25.02.97
8 Santi **CAZORLA** (34) 13.12.84
11 Samu **CHUKWUEZE** (Nga) (20) 22.05.99
23 Moi **GOMEZ** (25) 23.06.94
26 Ramiro **GUERRA** (Uru) (22) 21.03.97
10 Vicente **IBORRA** (31) 16.01.88
15 Manu **MORLANES** (20) 12.01.99
24 Javi **ONTIVEROS** (22) 09.09.97
20 Ruben **PENA** (28) 18.07.91
22 Leo **SUAREZ** (23) 30.03.96
14 Manu **TRIGUEROS** (28) 17.10.91
19 Andre-Frank **ZAMBO-ANGUISSA** (Cam) (23) 16.11.95

FORWARDS

9 Carlos **BACCA** (Col) (33) 08.09.86
7 Gerard **MORENO** (27) 07.04.92
17 Karl **TOKO EKAMBI** (Cam) (27) 14.09.92

COACH

Javier **CALLEJA** (41) 12.05.78

(ages as of 04.10.19)

Clash... Independiente's Martin Benitez (in red) and Guillermo Fernandez of Racing

RACING v INDEPENDIENTE

Next-door neighbours make El Clasico de Avellaneda a real local affair

With 12 top-flight sides in Buenos Aires, there are plenty of derby games in the Argentinian capital. But while Boca-River may be the game that divides a nation and enthralls the rest of the world, the real local affair is the Avellaneda *clasico*.

With just 500 metres separating Independiente's Estadio Libertadores de America from Racing's Estadio Presidente Juan Domingo Peron, there is no middle ground when it comes to local loyalties.

Both clubs are among what are considered to be the country's "big five" and have won the national title 33 times between them, with Racing's 2014 victory putting them one ahead in the bragging stakes.

On the continental stage, Racing won the 1967 Libertadores Cup and also became the first Argentinian side to win the Intercontinental Cup. Independiente, however, hold the upper hand in this area, having won the Libertadores a record seven times, including four in a row between 1972 and 1975, and were Intercontinental champions twice, in 1973 and 1984.

With the grounds and fans being in such close proximity, games between the two sides can be extremely volatile, to say the least.

In November 1961 a brawl among the players saw the referee issue eight red cards – four to each side.

And off the field things have been even worse. In 2002, fighting saw 25 fans hospitalised, almost 100 people arrested and an Independiente supporter shot dead. WS

Close...the club's home grounds

CLASSIC ENCOUNTERS

1967 Dec 17
On the last day of the season, Independiente beat visitors Racing 4-0 to win the championship.

1970 Jul 27
Independiente win 3-2 at Racing to claim the title. They finish level on points with River Plate, with the same goal difference, but have scored one more goal.

1983 Dec 22
A 2-0 victory over their neighbours means Independiente win the league on the last day of a season that also sees Racing relegated from the Primera.

1992 Oct 8
A goalless draw gives Racing a 2-1 aggregate win in the Libertadores Super Cup – the only time the two have met in international competition.

ON BOTH SIDES

NORBERTO RAFFO
Racing 1957-60
Independiente 1967-68

JOSE PASTORIZA
Racing 1964-65; (coach) 1981-82
Independiente 1966-72; (coach) 1976-79, 1983-84, 1985-87, 1990-91, 2003-04

GABRIEL CALDERON
Racing 1977-81
Independiente 1981-83

CARLOS FREN
Racing 1978-82; (coach) 1991
Independiente 1982; (coach) 1995

NESTOR CLAUSEN
Racing 1980-88; 1995-96; (coach) 2001-02
Independiente 1994-95

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